



No. 45

JATAKA tales

MONKEY STORIES

AMAR
CHITRA
KATHA



JETPREY
FLOWER

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

The Jatakas on which the present title is based is a collection of five hundred and fifty stories, included in the Pali canon. They are tales in which the life of Bodhisatva in his previous births is narrated. The Bodhisatva is one, who by performing virtuous, kind and intelligent acts, aspires to become a Buddha.

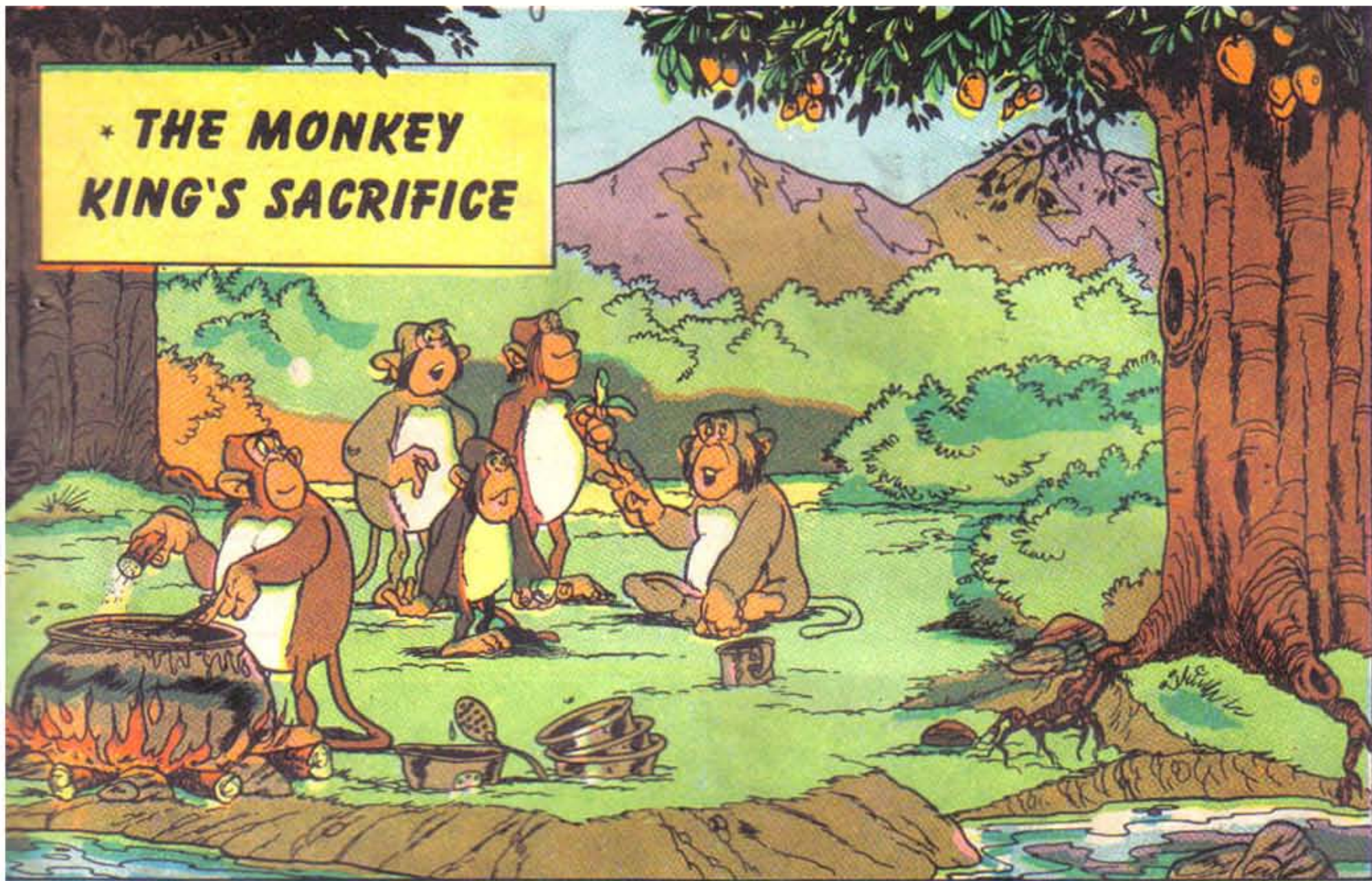
Jataka tales are based on folklore, legends and ballads of ancient India. We cannot assign a definite date to the Jataka stories. Taking into account archaeological and literary evidence it seems likely that they were compiled in the period, third century B.C. to fifth century A.D. They give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and philosophy.

The Jataka stories have been very popular in the Buddhist world. These stories have been translated almost in all the languages of the Buddhist countries such as the Chinese, Tibetan, Sinhalese, Siamese, Burmese, Japanese and also in many modern European languages. These stories have encouraged painting and sculpture in ancient India and other Buddhist countries. Sanchi, Bharhut, Amaravati and Ajanta in India, Borobudur in Java, Pagan in Burma and Sukhodaya in Siam bear testimony to the popularity of these tales.

The present book is a collection of a few Jataka stories in which the Bodhisatva is born as a monkey. We hope, in the words of Prof. Rhys Davids that "we may still turn with appreciation to the ancient book of the Buddhist Jataka tales as a priceless record of the childhood of our race".

**AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
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* THE MONKEY KING'S SACRIFICE



FRIENDS! WE HAVE BEEN LIVING HAPPILY ON THIS MANGO TREE FOR YEARS.



BUT I ANTICIPATE TROUBLE, SOON.

WHY MASTER?



MEN HAVE COME TO LIVE NEAR OUR FOREST. THEY HAVE NEVER TASTED THE MANGO FRUIT.

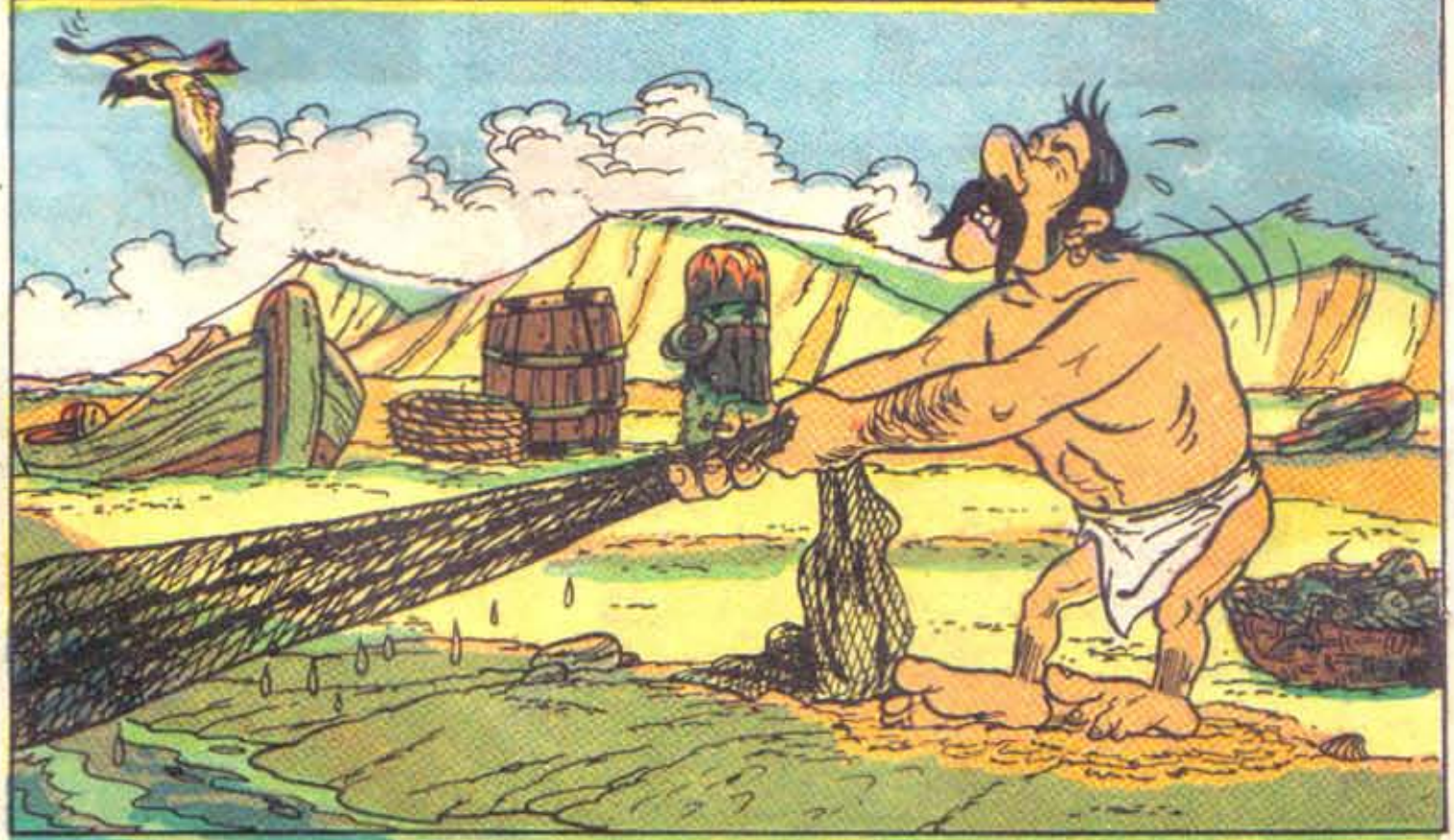




BUT IN SPITE OF ALL
THIS CARE, A JUICY
RIPE MANGO FELL
INTO THE RIVER...



... AND GOT CAUGHT IN A FISHERMAN'S NET.



WHEN HE GOT HOME AND BEGAN SORTING OUT THE FISH-

LOOK! SEE WHAT I HAVE FOUND AMONG THE FISH. A STRANGE FRUIT. IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!

I HAVE NEVER SEEN A FRUIT LIKE THAT BEFORE.



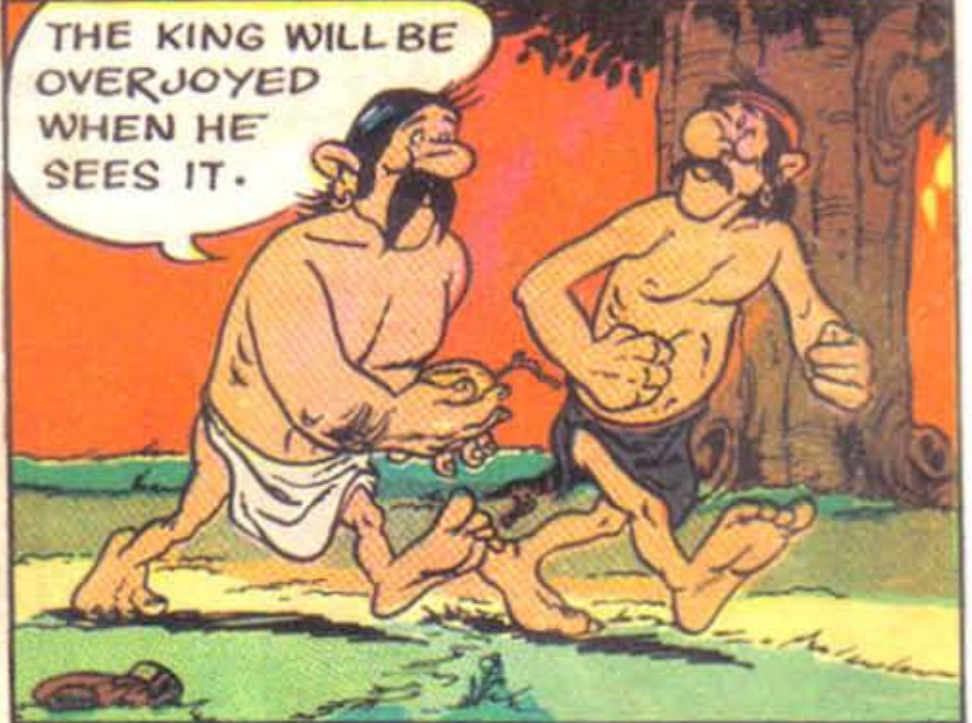
I THINK WE OUGHT TO TAKE IT TO THE KING.

YES. I THINK I'D BETTER.



SO, ALONG WITH A FRIEND, HE SET OFF FOR THE KING'S PALACE.

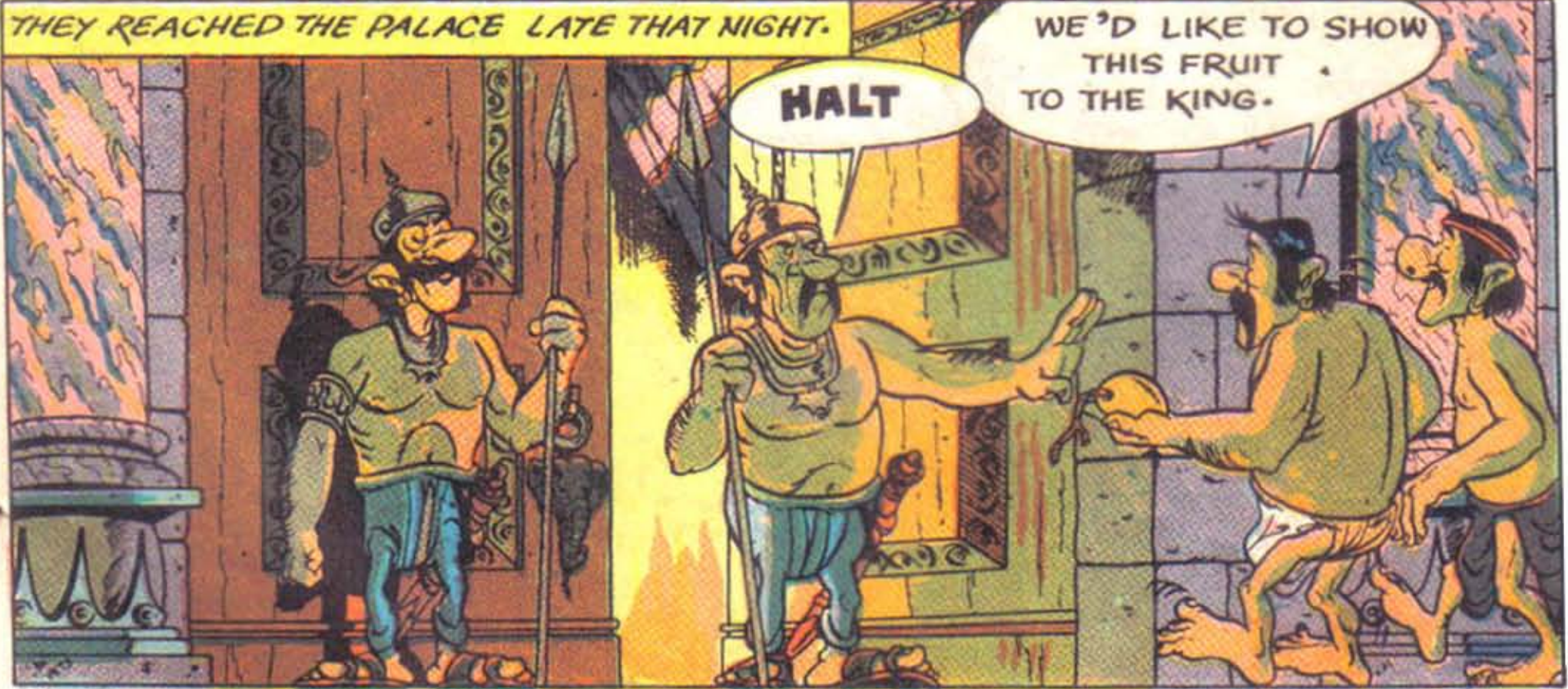
THE KING WILL BE OVERJOYED WHEN HE SEES IT.



THEY REACHED THE PALACE LATE THAT NIGHT.

HALT

WE'D LIKE TO SHOW THIS FRUIT TO THE KING.



THEY WERE LET IN.



SEND FOR THE FORESTER.
HE WILL TELL US WHAT
FRUIT IT IS.



THAT'S THE
RARE MANGO,
SIR.



IS IT POISONOUS?
NOT AT ALL,
SIR. IN FACT
IT IS VERY TASTY.



SO THE KING SUNK HIS TEETH
INTO IT.
HM-M-M! DELICIOUS.



IT SMELLS
GOOD, TOO!



AS NIGHT FELL, THE MONKEYS BEGAN
MOVING ABOUT.

MINISTER,
WHAT WAS THAT?

JUST MONKEYS
SIR, SCAMPERING
AMONG THE BRANCHES.

WHEN IT'S MORNING, TELL THE
ARCHERS TO SHOOT
EVERY SINGLE MONKEY.

I SHALL, SIR.

THE NEXT MORNING—

TODAY
ALONG WITH THE
MANGOES WE SHALL
EAT MONKEY'S
FLESH.

OH MASTER,
WE'RE
TRAPPED.

WHAT ARE WE
TO DO NOW?

EYOW

DON'T PANIC. I'LL
FIND A WAY OUT.

THEY MANAGED TO GET TO
A TREE
NEAR THE RIVER.

NOW ALL OF YOU
DO AS I TELL
YOU.



HE GOT HOLD OF A THICK LONG CREEPER. HE TIED
ONE END OF IT TO A BRANCH AND THE OTHER TO HIS
WAIST.



NOW I WILL SWING OVER THE
RIVER TO THAT FIG TREE ON
THE OPPOSITE BANK. ONE BY ONE
YOU CAN COME ACROSS TO THE
OTHER SIDE.

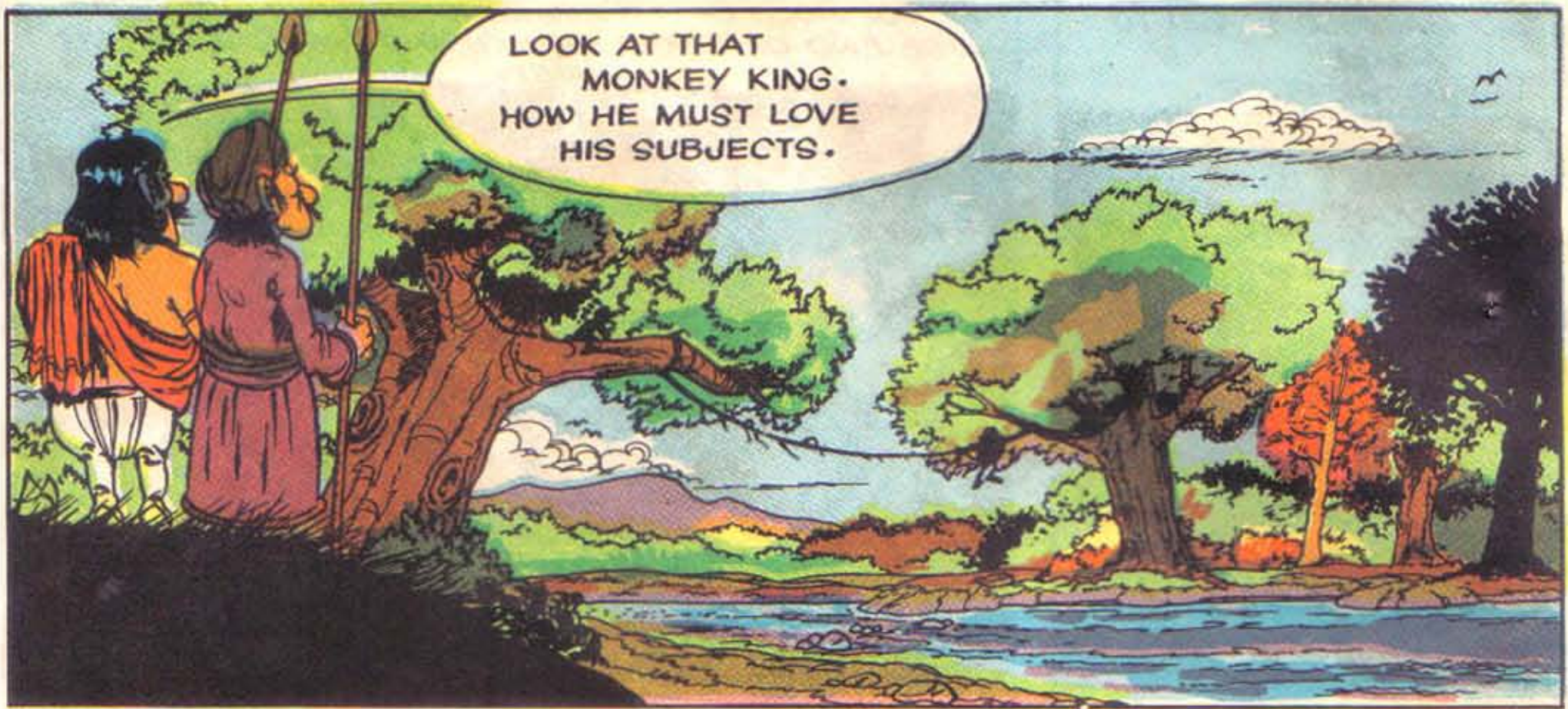


OH NO! THE VINE
IS
TOO SHORT.



I WILL TRY TO GET
HOLD OF THIS
BRANCH AND BRIDGE
THE GAP.



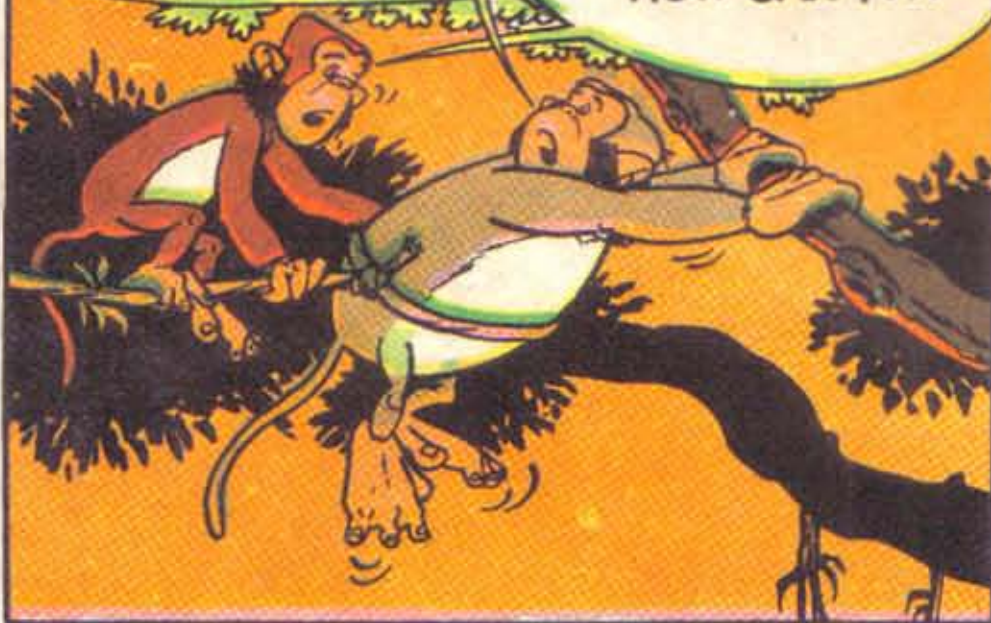


LOOK AT THAT
MONKEY KING.
HOW HE MUST LOVE
HIS SUBJECTS.

THE MONKEYS BEGAN CROSSING.

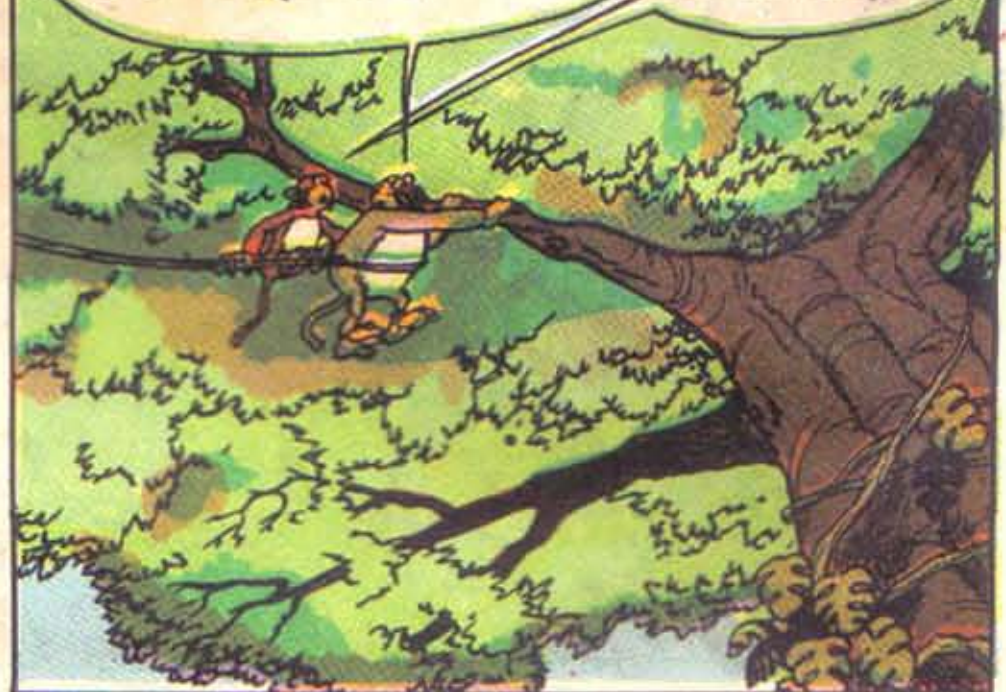
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING
FOR? CROSS OVER MY
BACK.

BUT,
MASTER,
HOW CAN I...



THIS IS NO TIME TO
THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.
CROSS QUICKLY.

YOU ARE
VERY KIND,
MASTER.



ALL THE MONKEYS CROSSED
OVER IN THIS MANNER. THE
LAST ONE WAS A WICKED
MONKEY WHO HAD NEVER
LIKED HIS KING.

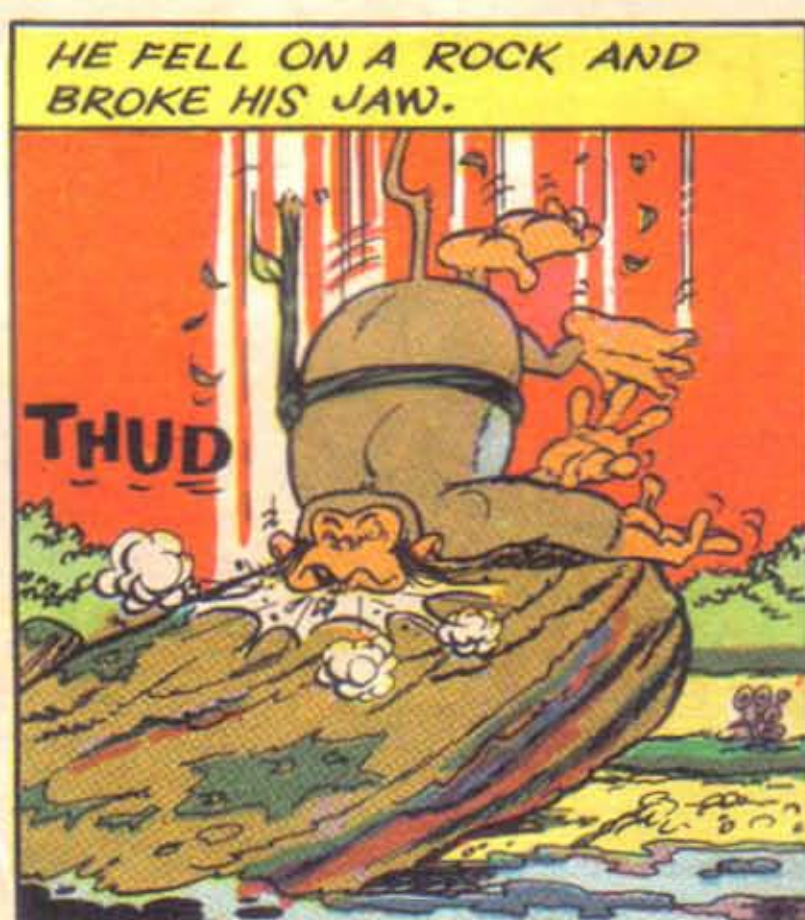
HERE IS MY CHANCE
TO TAKE REVENGE



I SHALL
JUMP ACROSS
AND PUSH HIM
DOWN.

COME ON. PLEASE
HURRY.





WHEN THEY GOT TO THE OTHER SIDE —

YOU SAVED THEM
AT THE COST OF
YOUR OWN
LIFE!

I DON'T MIND.
I HAVE DONE
MY DUTY.

LET ME TAKE YOU
BACK AND LOOK
AFTER YOU.

NO. PLEASE
LEAVE ME
HERE. I AM
ABOUT TO
DIE.

NOBLE SOUL!
HOW PAINFUL IT MUST
ALL BE.

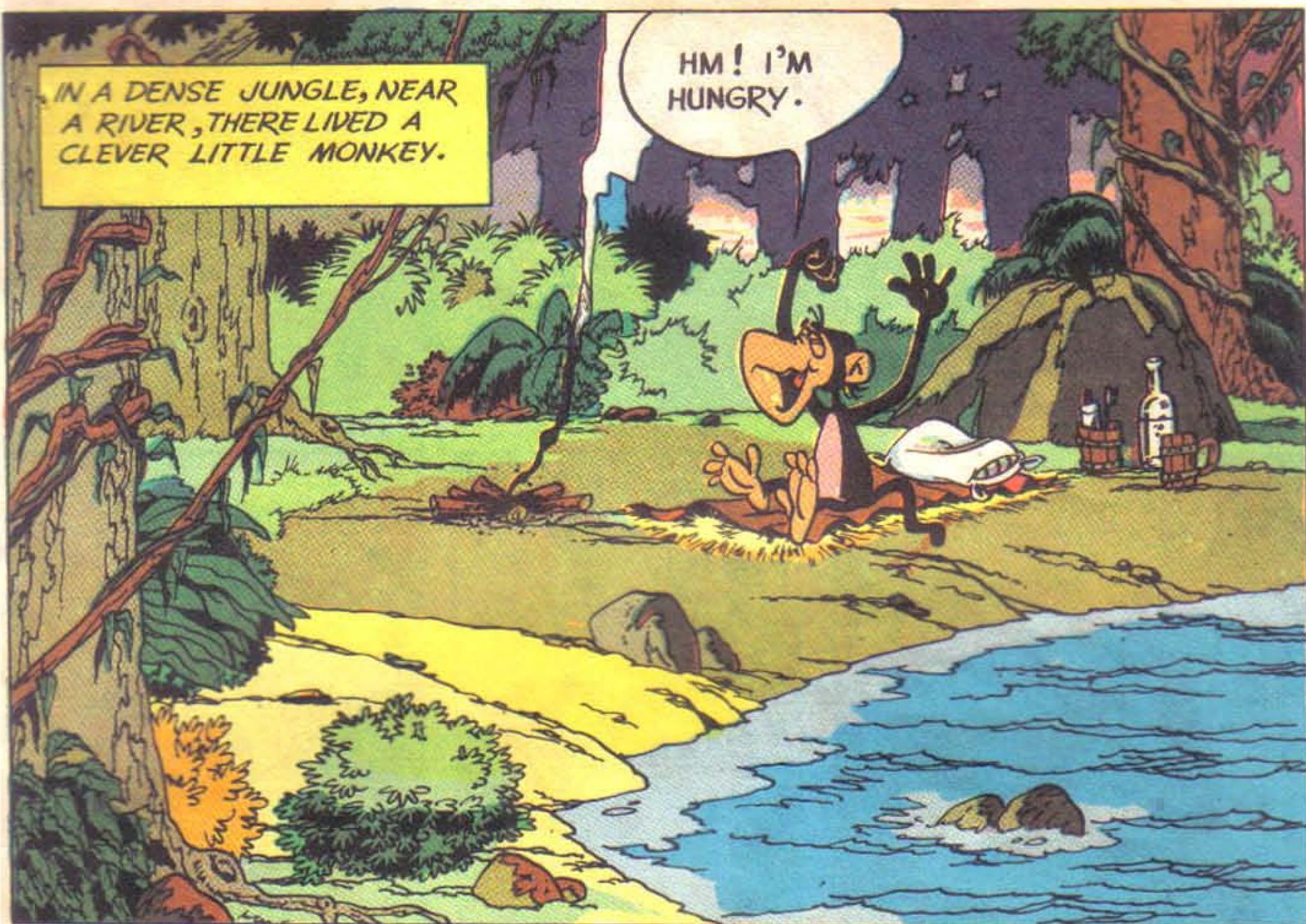
I DON'T MIND
THE PAIN.
I AM HAPPY THAT
MY SUBJECTS
ARE SAFE.

the
end.

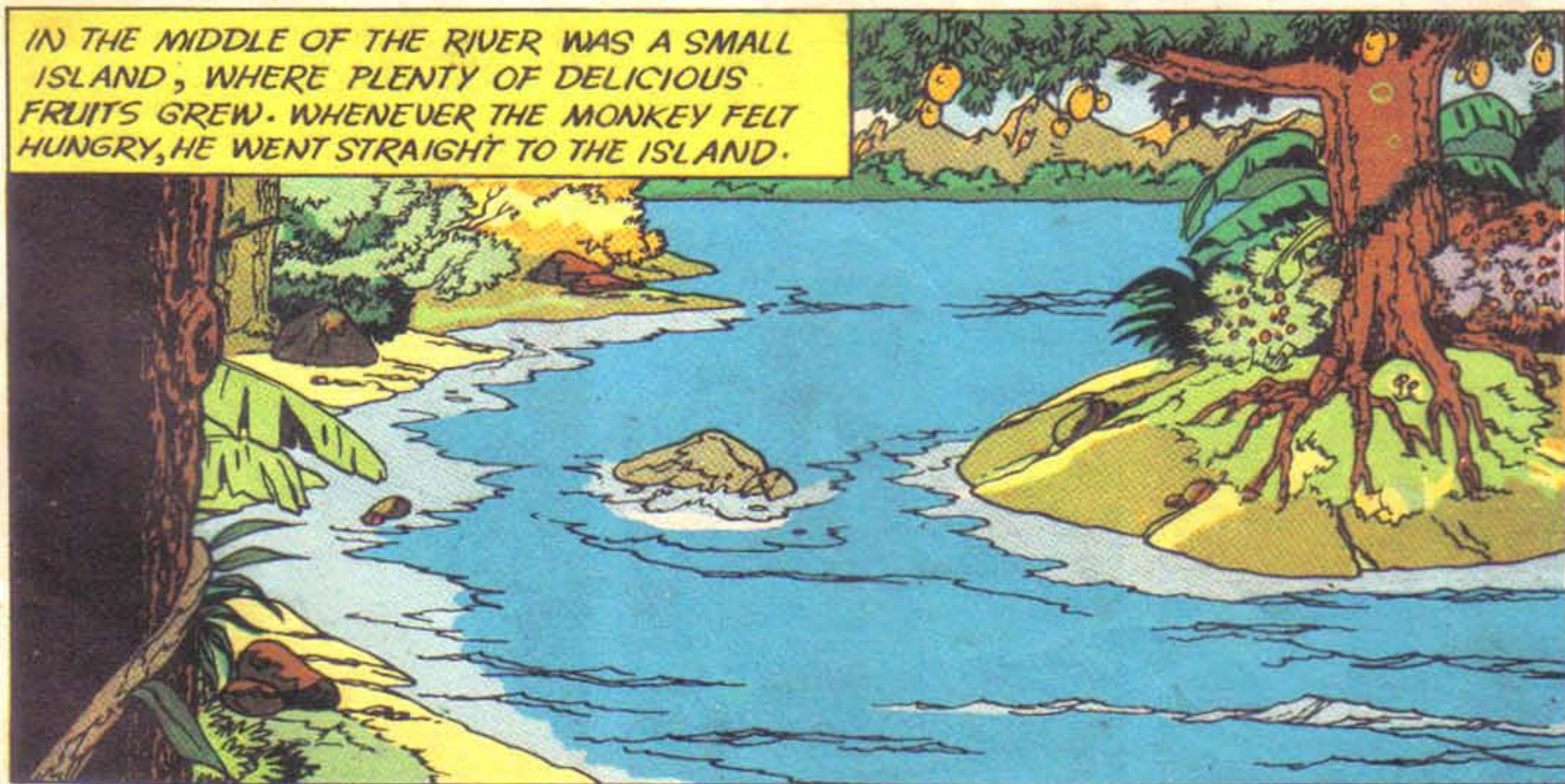
★ THE STUPID CROCODILE AND THE MONKEY

IN A DENSE JUNGLE, NEAR
A RIVER, THERE LIVED A
CLEVER LITTLE MONKEY.

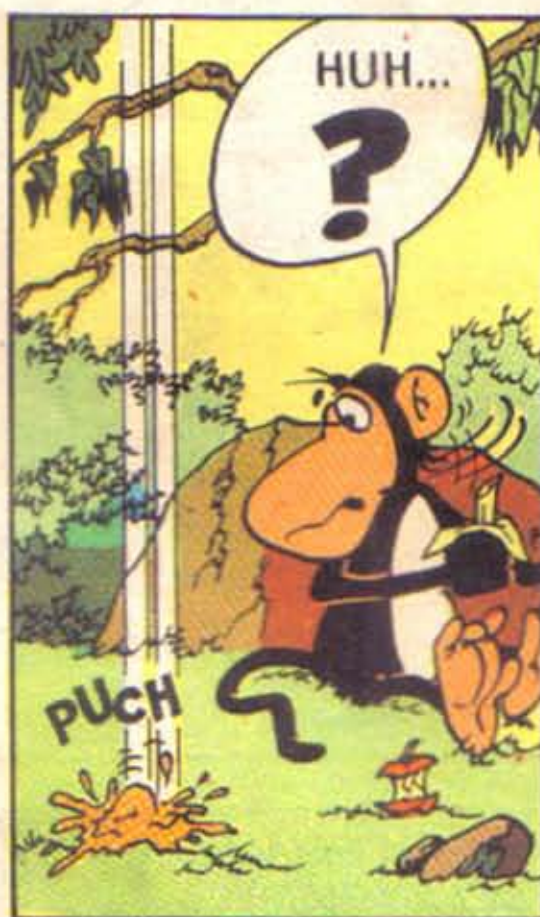
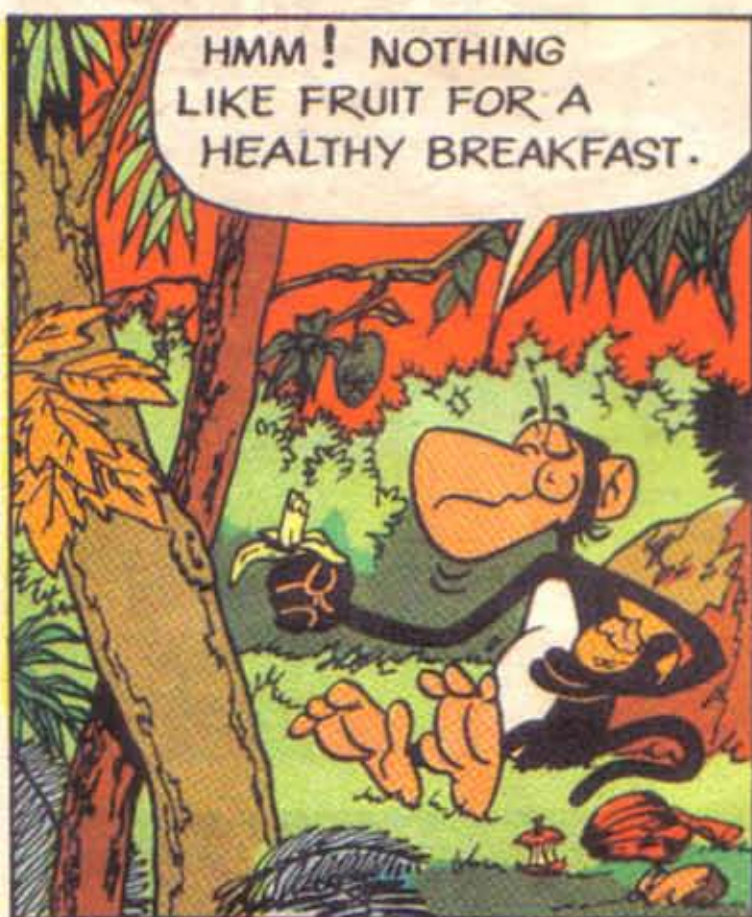
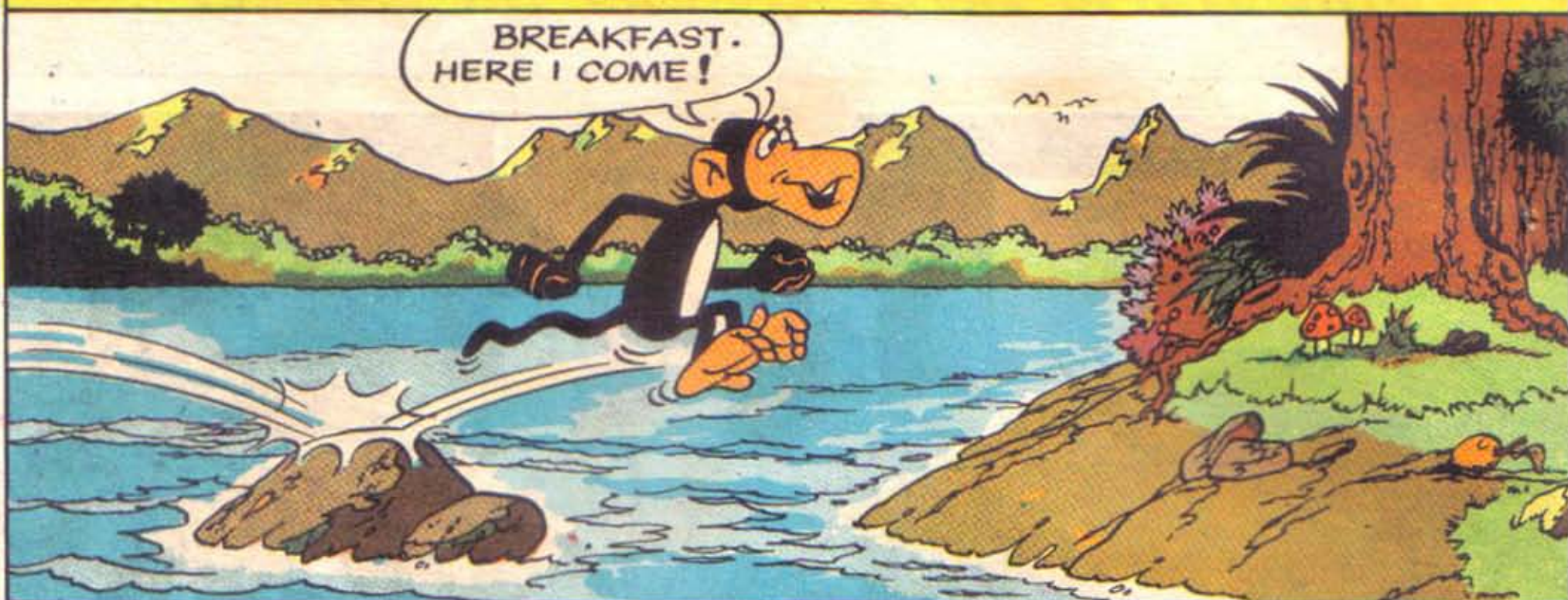
HM! I'M
HUNGRY.



IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER WAS A SMALL
ISLAND, WHERE PLENTY OF DELICIOUS
FRUITS GREW. WHENEVER THE MONKEY FELT
HUNGRY, HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE ISLAND.



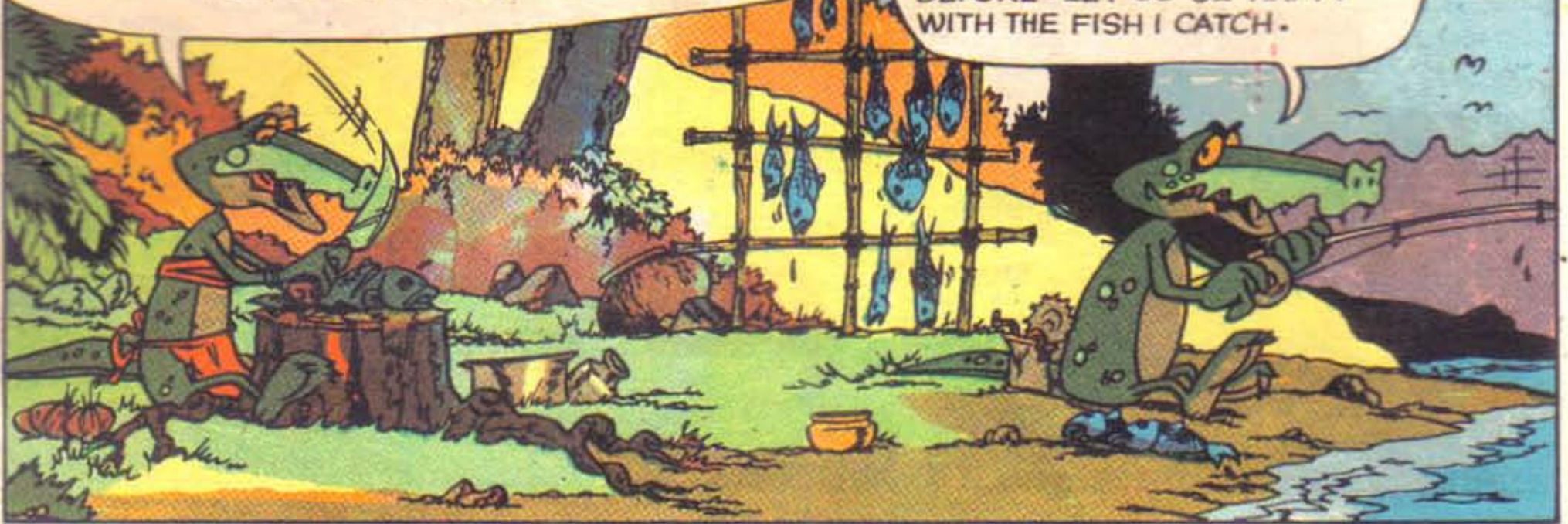
HE WOULD JUMP FROM THE BANK, ONTO A ROCK IN THE RIVER AND THEN TO THE SMALL ISLAND.



NOT FAR AWAY THERE LIVED A CROCODILE AND HIS WIFE.

YOU KNOW DEAR, I'VE GOT IT! I KNOW HOW WE CAN CATCH THAT LITTLE MONKEY FOR OUR DINNER.

OH PLEASE! NOT AGAIN. WE'VE TRIED IT TOO MANY TIMES BEFORE. LET US BE HAPPY WITH THE FISH I CATCH.



THIS TIME MY PLAN WON'T FAIL. I PROMISE.



SO THEY CAUTIOUSLY APPROACHED THE SPOT WHERE THE MONKEY LIVED.

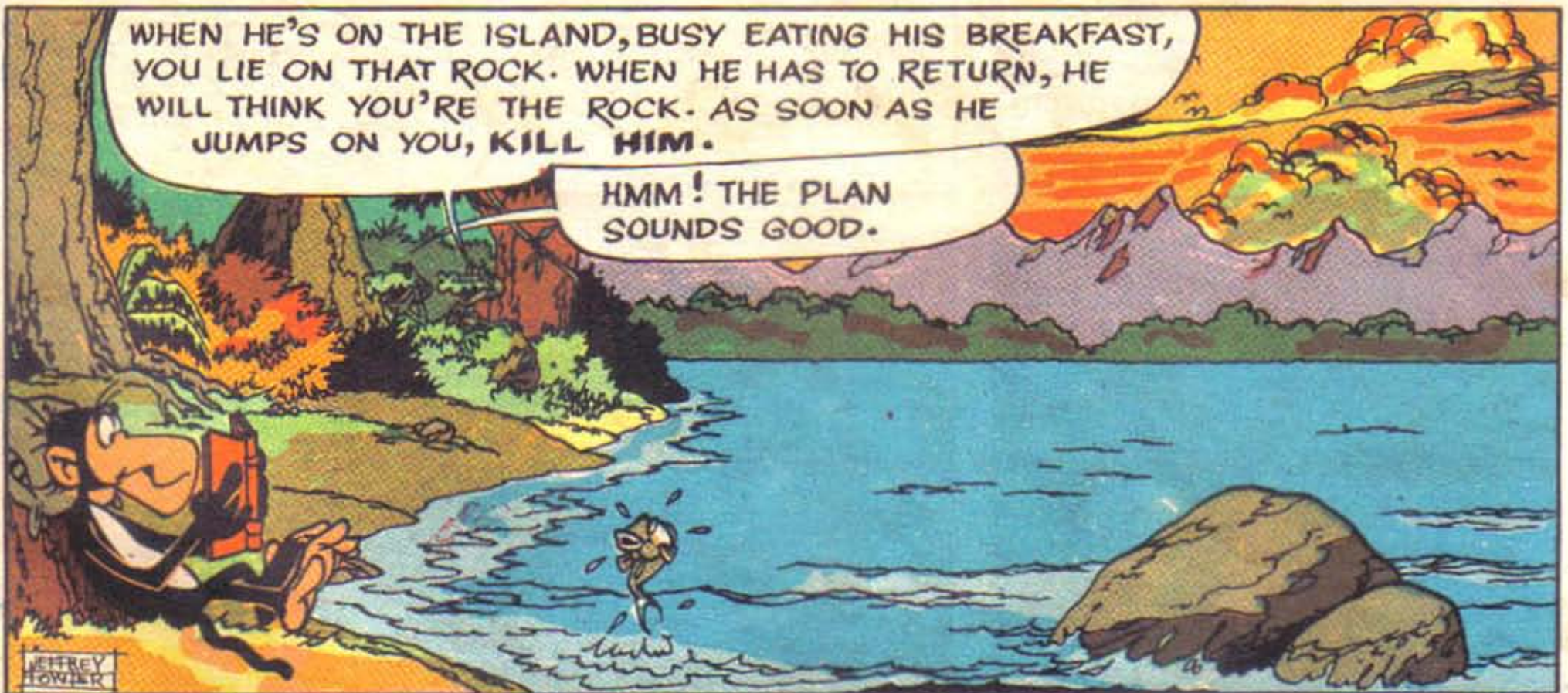
YOU SEE THAT ROCK THERE? THE MONKEY USES IT TO REACH THE ISLAND.

SHH! QUIET. HE MIGHT HEAR YOU.



WHEN HE'S ON THE ISLAND, BUSY EATING HIS BREAKFAST, YOU LIE ON THAT ROCK. WHEN HE HAS TO RETURN, HE WILL THINK YOU'RE THE ROCK. AS SOON AS HE JUMPS ON YOU, KILL HIM.

HMM! THE PLAN SOUNDS GOOD.



THE NEXT DAY AS USUAL THE MONKEY SET OUT FOR THE ISLAND.

I'M HUNGRY!

SO AM I!
HEE!HEE!

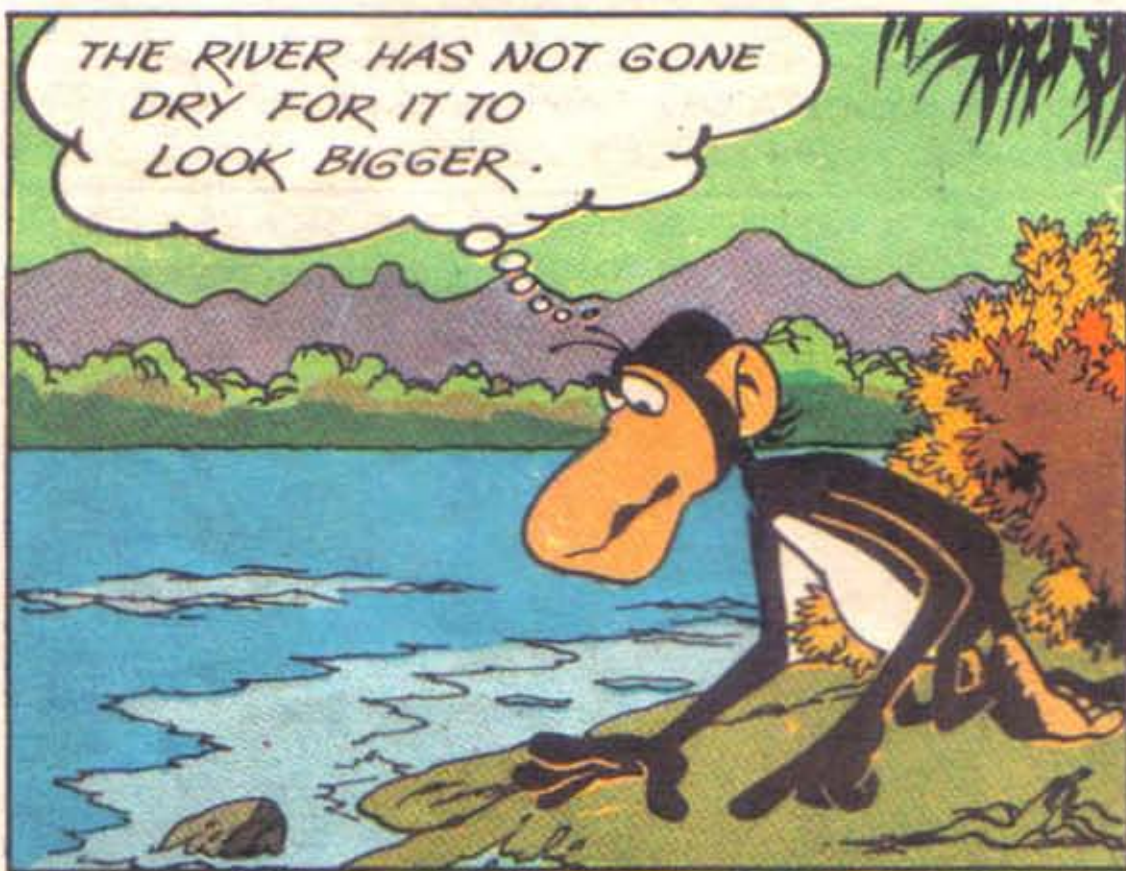


WHEN HE HAD EATEN TO HIS STOMACH'S CONTENT—

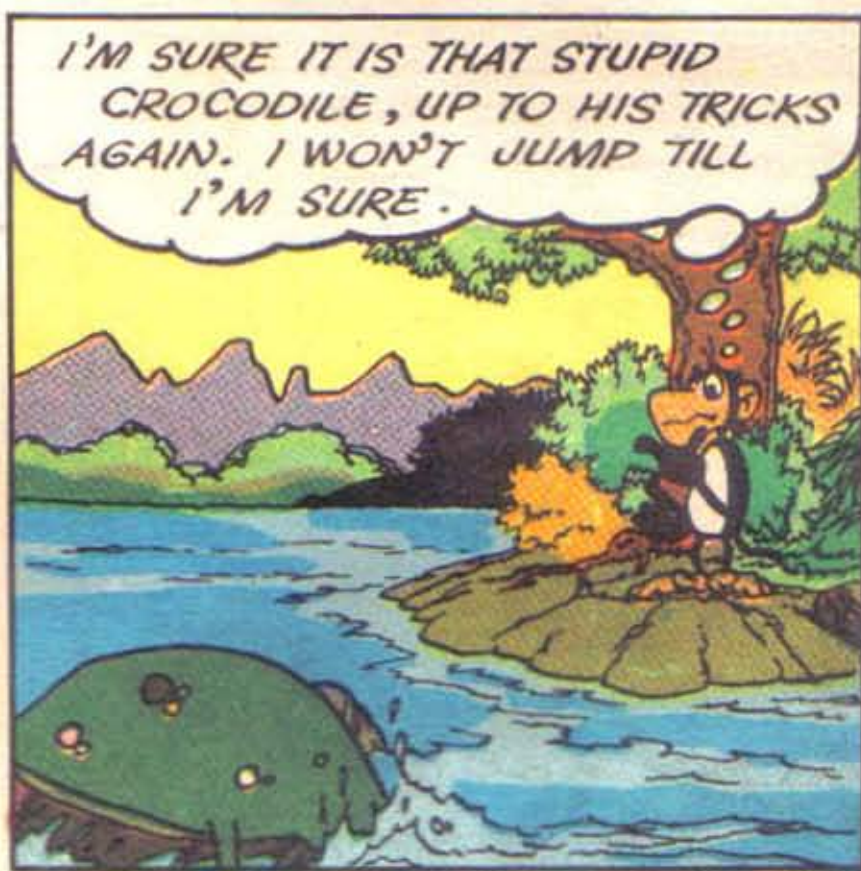
HEY! THAT'S STRANGE! THAT ROCK LOOKS BIGGER TODAY.



THE RIVER HAS NOT GONE DRY FOR IT TO LOOK BIGGER.



I'M SURE IT IS THAT STUPID CROCODILE, UP TO HIS TRICKS AGAIN. I WON'T JUMP TILL I'M SURE.



LET ME SEE IF THIS IDEA WORKS.

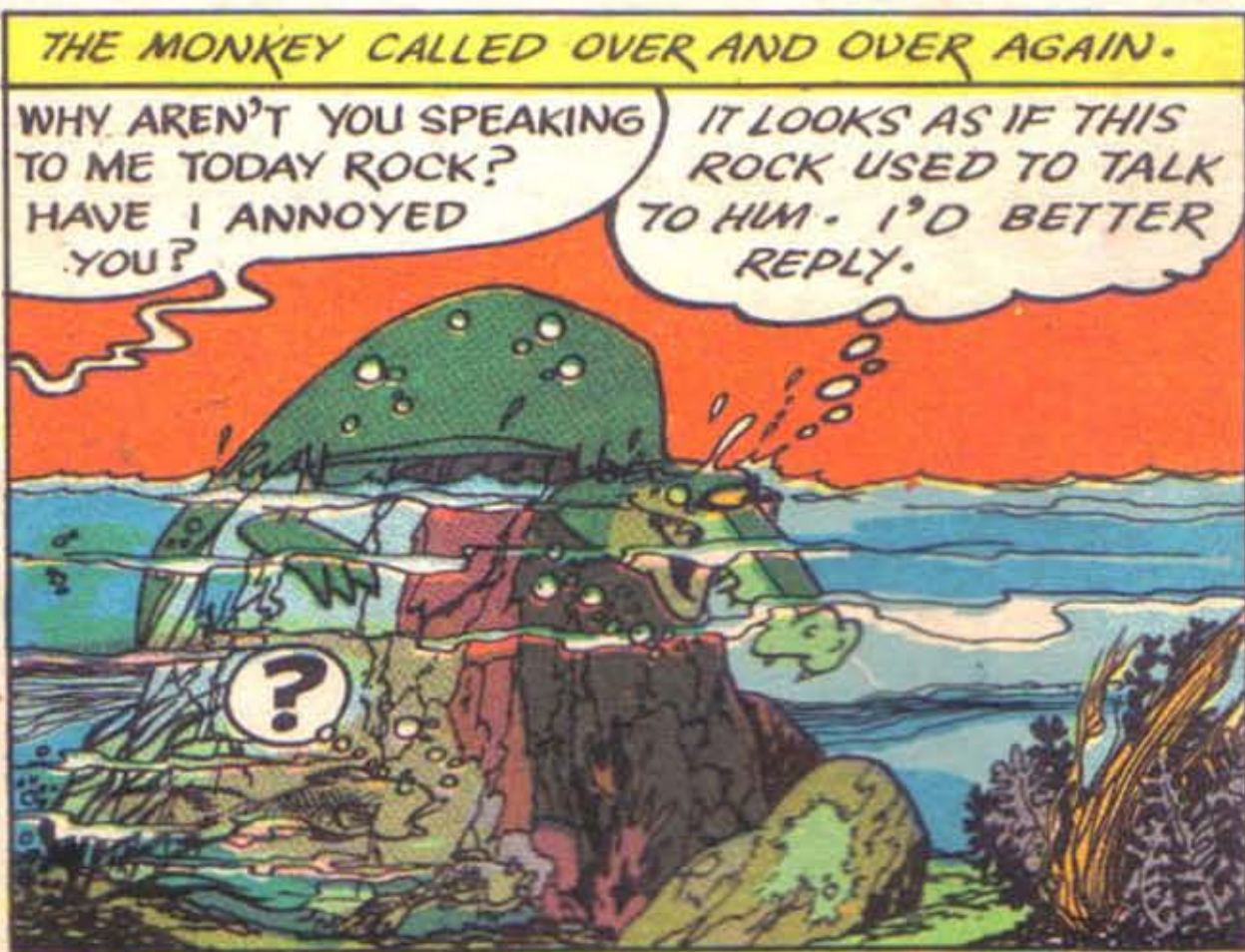
HELLO ROCK! HOW ARE YOU TODAY, MY FRIEND?

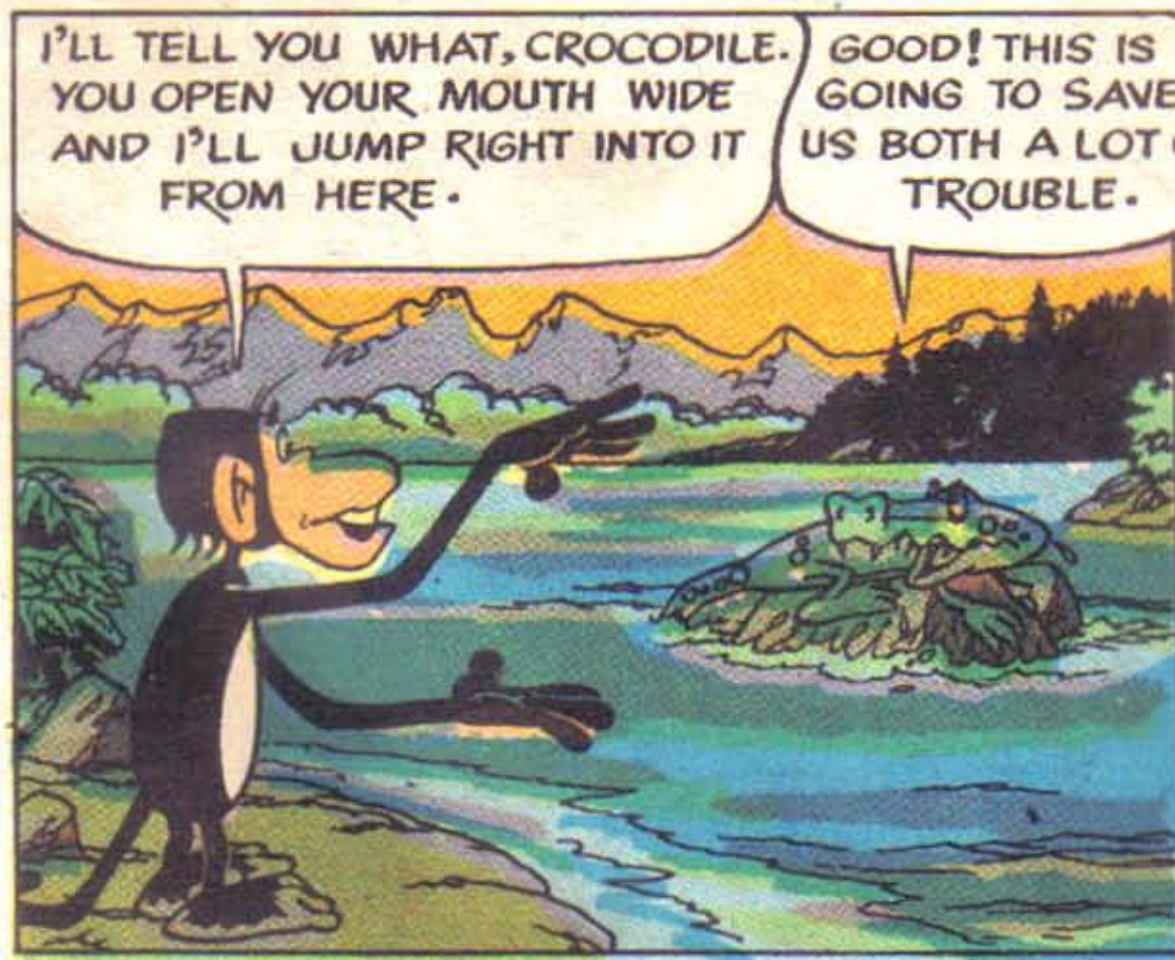


THE MONKEY CALLED OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

WHY AREN'T YOU SPEAKING TO ME TODAY ROCK? HAVE I ANNOYED YOU?

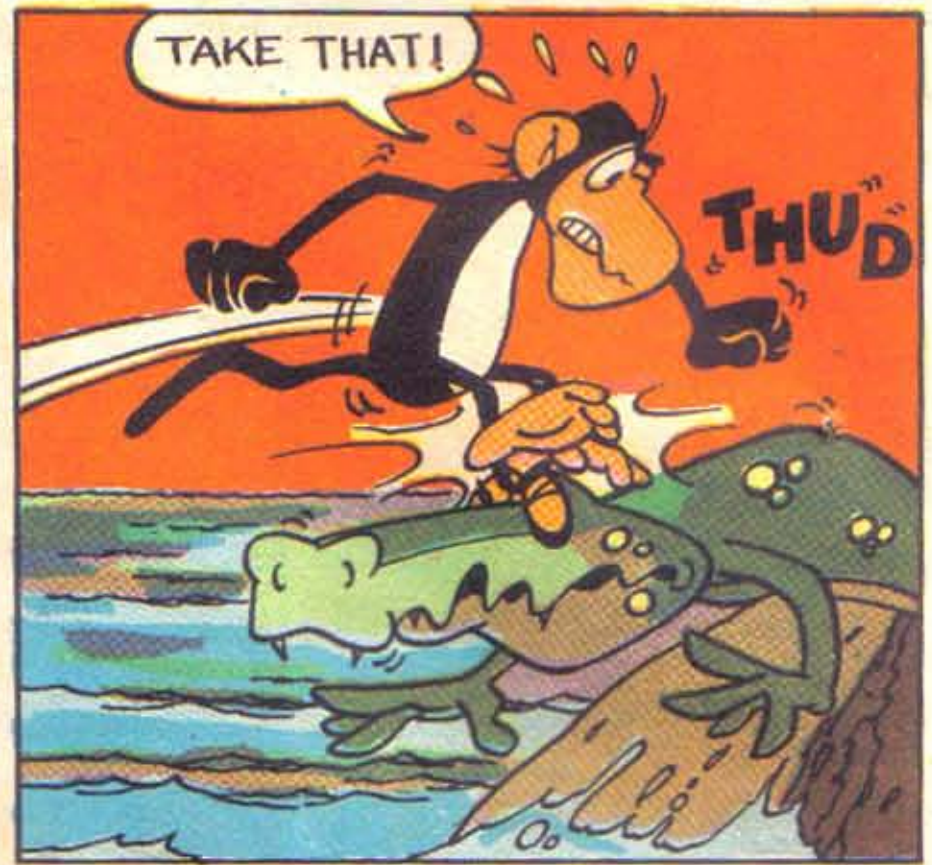
IT LOOKS AS IF THIS ROCK USED TO TALK TO HIM. I'D BETTER REPLY.





AS THE MONKEY HAD EXPECTED, THE MOMENT THE CROCODILE OPENED HIS MOUTH WIDE, HIS EYES CLOSED.

NOW'S MY CHANCE. I'LL JUMP ON HIM AND ONTO THE BANK. I'LL HAVE TO BE QUICK.



WHAT WAS THAT?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE? YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD JUMP INTO MY MOUTH.



DID YOU REALLY BELIEVE I'D DO A STUPID THING LIKE THAT?

GRR! WAIT TILL I GET MY TEETH INTO YOU.



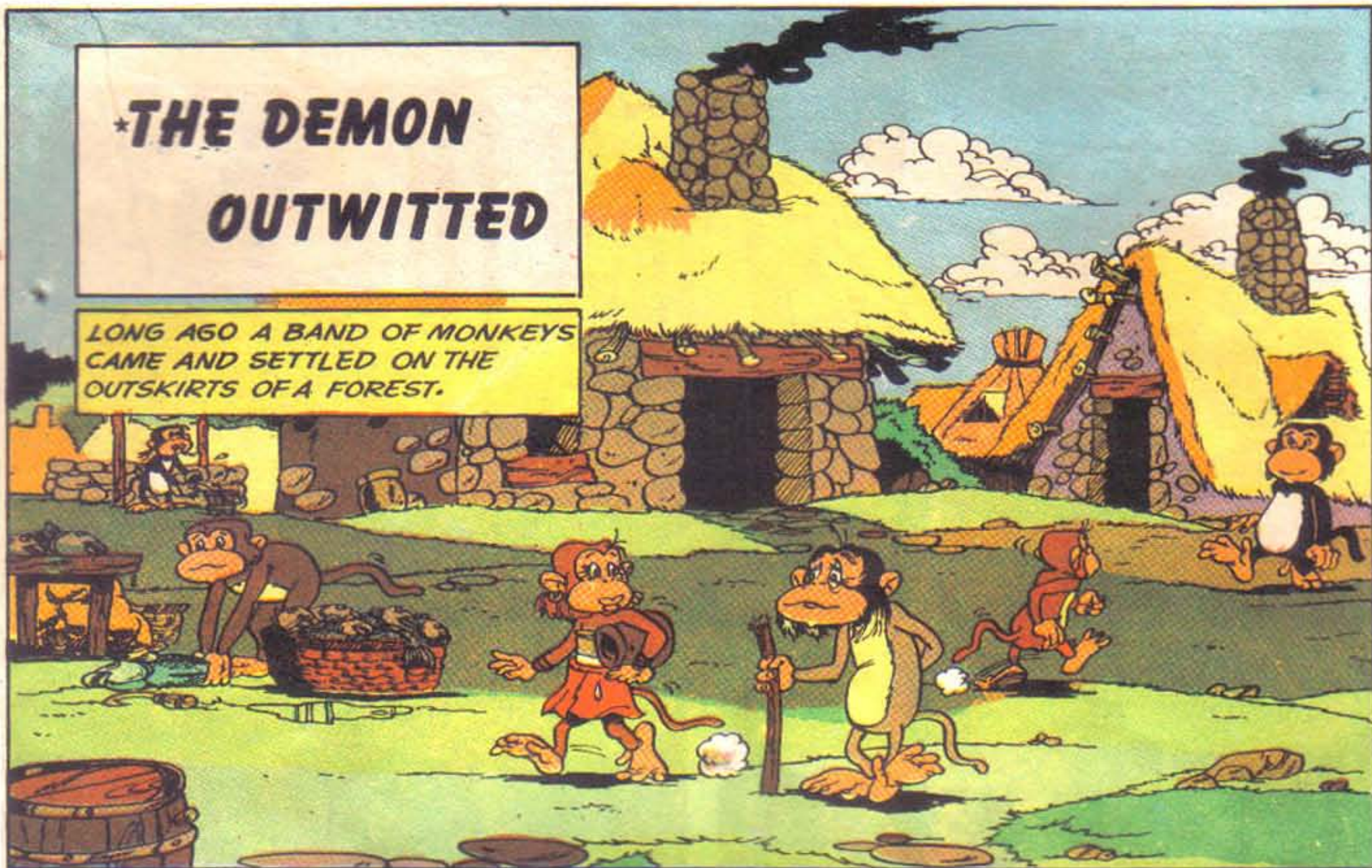
YOU NEVER WILL, CROCODILE. YOU MAY BE BIG AND STRONG BUT YOU ARE STUPID.

JEFFREY FOWLER

the End

★THE DEMON OUTWITTED

LONG AGO A BAND OF MONKEYS
CAME AND SETTLED ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF A FOREST.

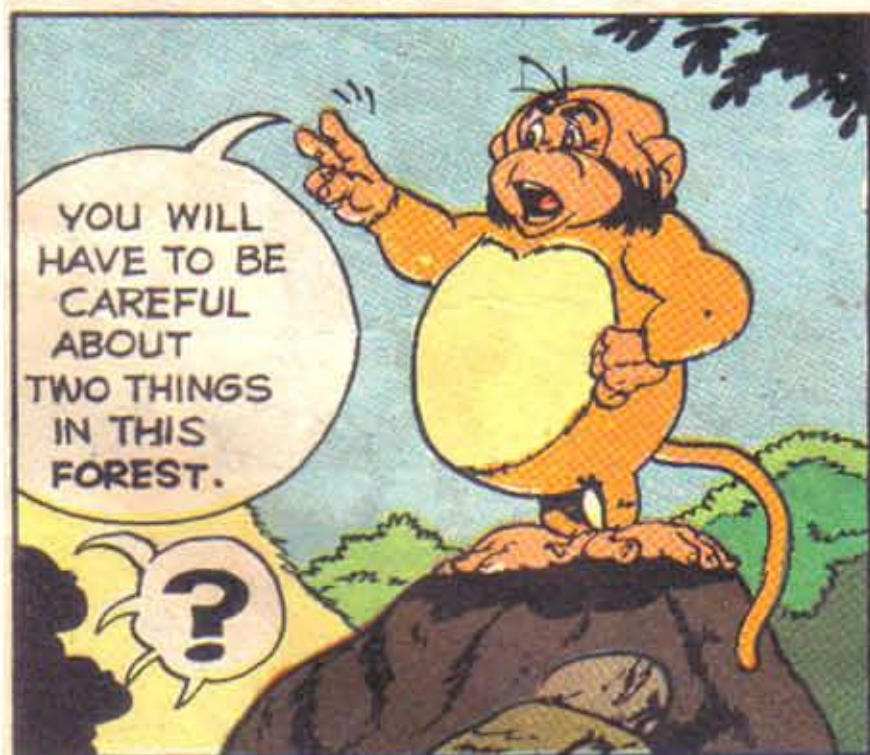


THE LEADER WHO KNEW THE PLACE
WELL, CALLED A MEETING.

ATTENTION, ALL OF YOU!
I HAVE
SOMETHING IMPORTANT
TO SAY.



YOU WILL
HAVE TO BE
CAREFUL
ABOUT
TWO THINGS
IN THIS
FOREST.



THERE ARE CERTAIN POISONOUS
TREES WITH VERY TEMPTING FRUIT
AND ONE OF THE LAKES IS
HAUNTED BY A DEMON.



YOU MUST NOT DRINK
WATER OR EAT ANY FRUIT
WITHOUT ASKING ME.



ONE DAY WHILE SEARCHING FOR FIREWOOD, THE
MONKEYS WANDERED DEEP INTO THE FOREST.



MOTHER, I'M
THIRSTY.

AH! THERE IS
A LAKE
CLOSE BY.



WAIT! DON'T GO
NEAR THE WATER.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER
OUR LEADER'S
WARNING?



OH DEAR! I'D COMPLETELY
FORGOTTEN. THANK YOU FOR
REMINDING ME.

ALL RIGHT!
LET US WAIT
TILL OUR LEADER
COMES.



A LITTLE LATER -

AH! HERE
HE IS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU SEEM TO HAVE
A PROBLEM.



MASTER, WE ARE
VERY THIRSTY.

WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU
TO LET US KNOW IF THIS LAKE
IS SAFE.



THAT WAS VERY WISE
OF YOU. NOW LET ME
EXAMINE THE LAKE.



HMM! ALL THE FOOTSTEPS
LEAD INTO THE LAKE.



BUT NOT A SINGLE
ONE LEADS
OUT OF IT.



AS SOON AS HE
RETURNED —

MASTER IS IT
SAFE?

NO! THIS LAKE IS
HAUNTED.



I'M VERY THIRSTY. I MUST
HAVE SOME WATER.

OH DEAR!
WHAT SHALL
WE DO?



HM...M. LET ME
THINK IN PEACE.



SUDDENLY —

WHA...

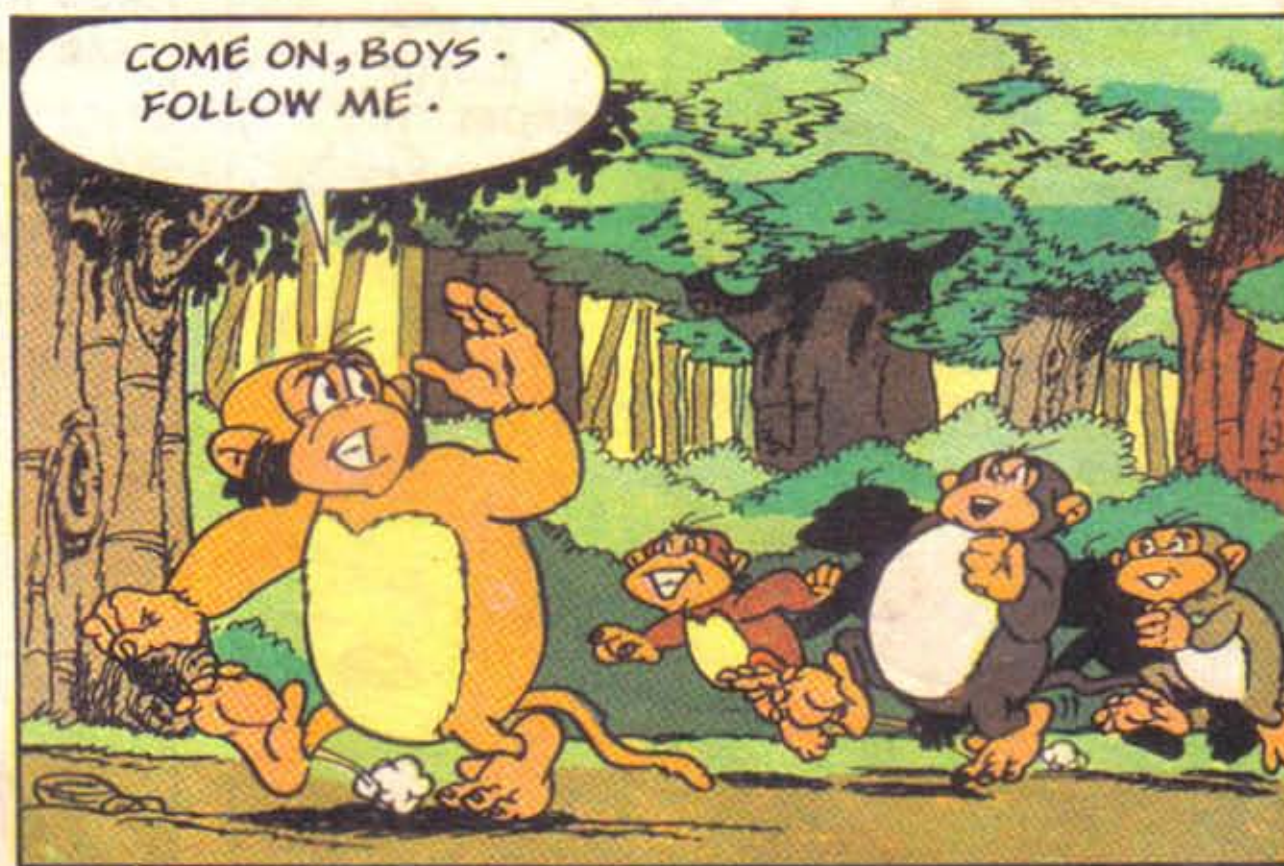
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING NEAR MY
LAKE?



ARE YOU THE DEMON OF THIS
LAKE?

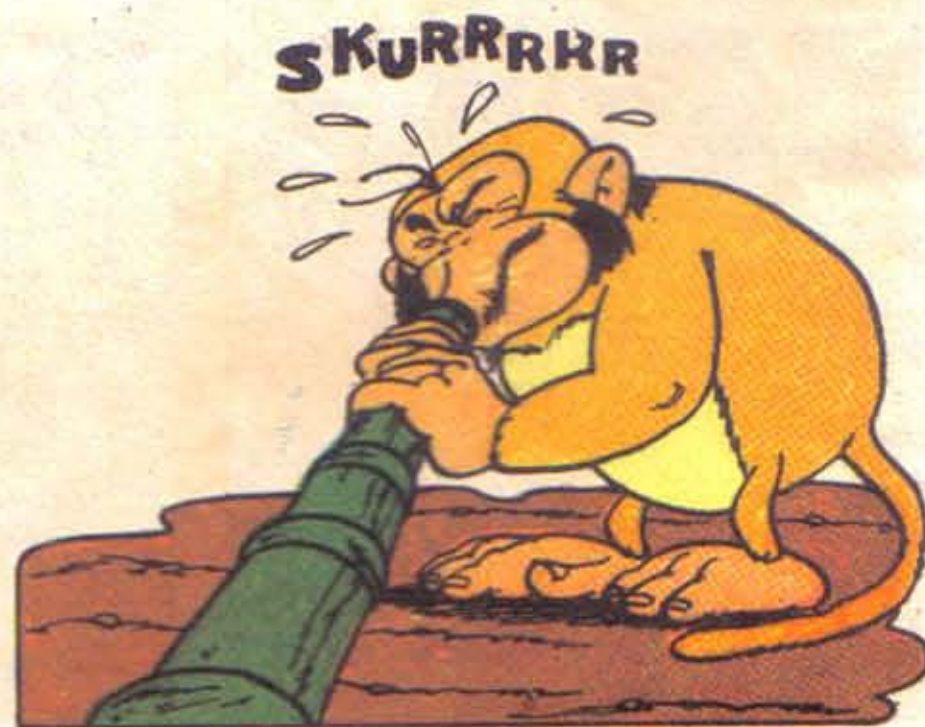
YES! AND I EAT ALL THOSE
WHO DARE ENTER
MY LAKE.







AND WITH ALL HIS MIGHT HE SUCKED AT THE REED TILL...



...THE WATER GUSHED OUT
IN A THICK STREAM.

SPLAT



WATER!
DELICIOUS WATER!
AND ALL FOR US.



FULL OF RAGE, THE OUTWITTED DEMON
STOMPED BACK INTO THE LAKE.



AND THE MONKEYS THEIR THIRST
WELL QUENCHED, RETURNED HOME.



the
End.

*THE MONKEY'S HEART

THERE ONCE LIVED A MONKEY ON THE BANK OF A RIVER

WHAT A LOVELY DAY!

MR MONKEY

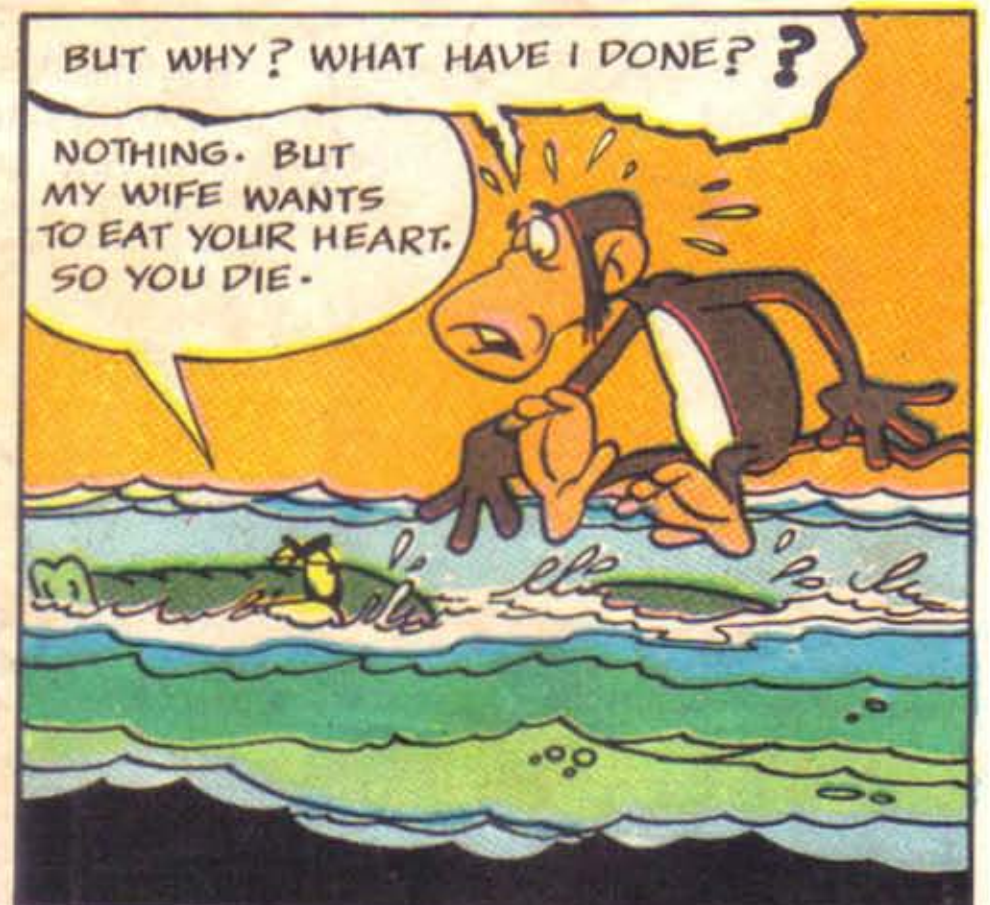
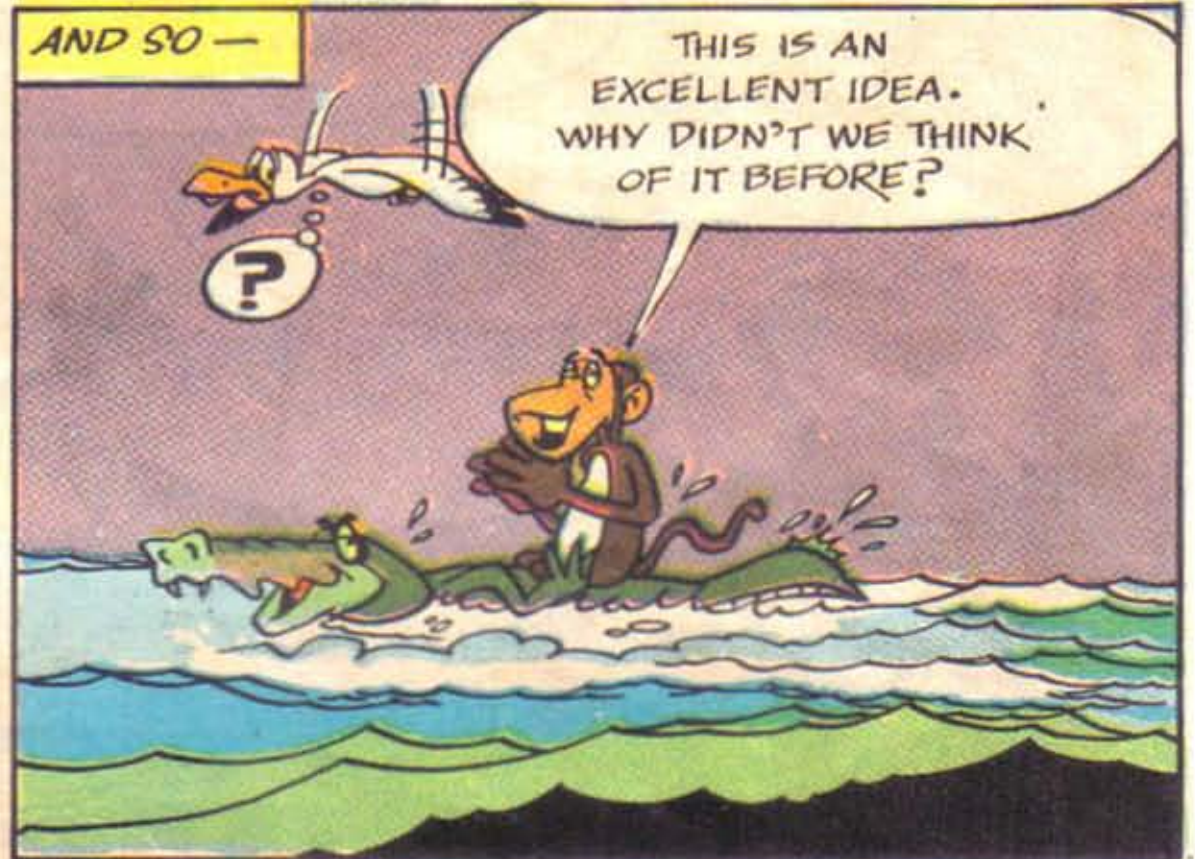
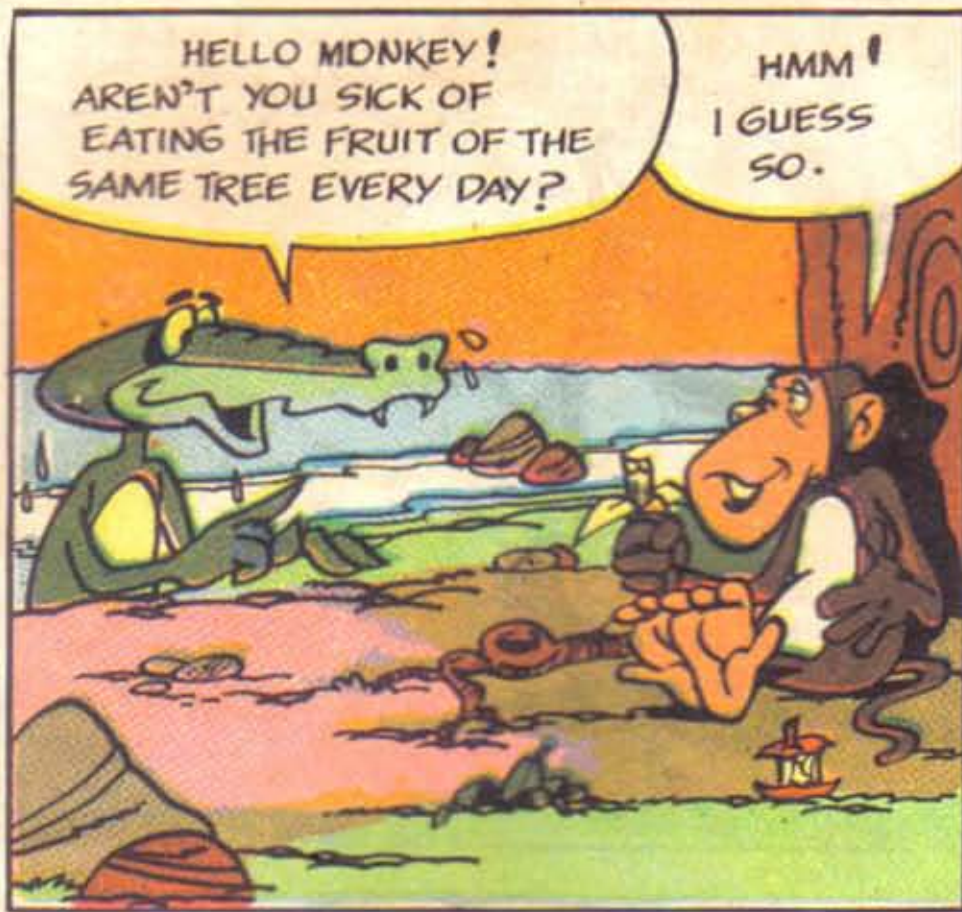
A LITTLE DOWNSTREAM LIVED A CROCODILE AND HIS WIFE.

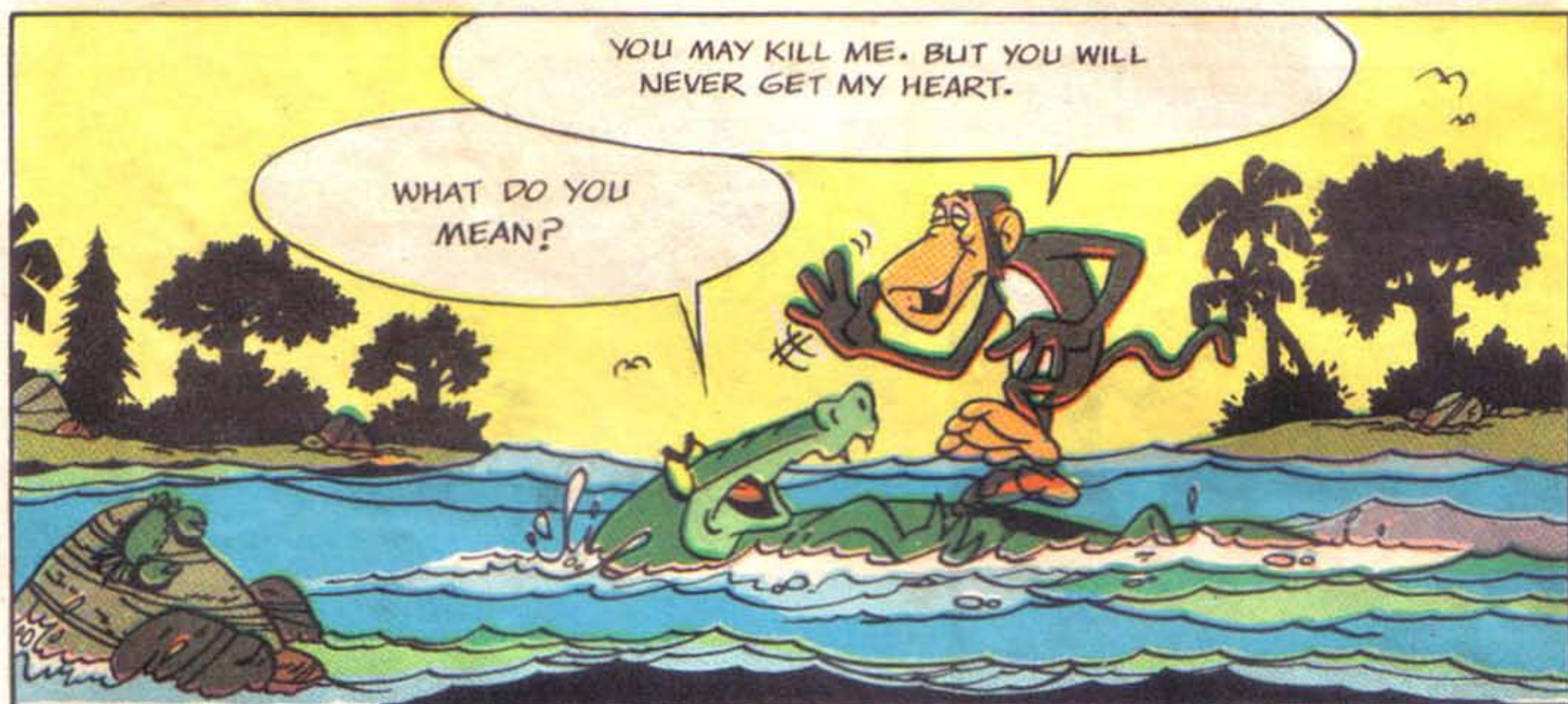
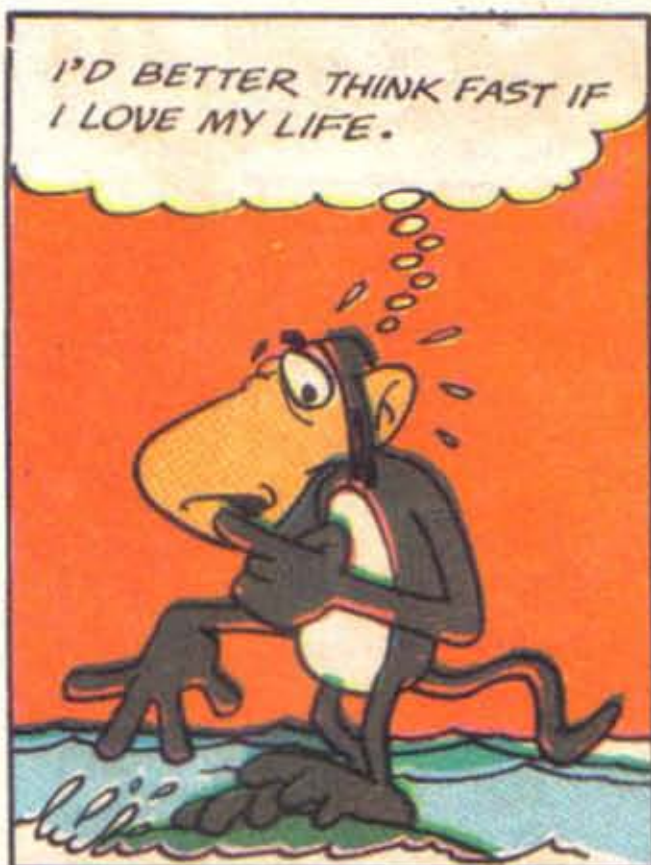
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT PLUMP MONKEY UPSTREAM? I'M LONGING TO EAT HIS HEART.

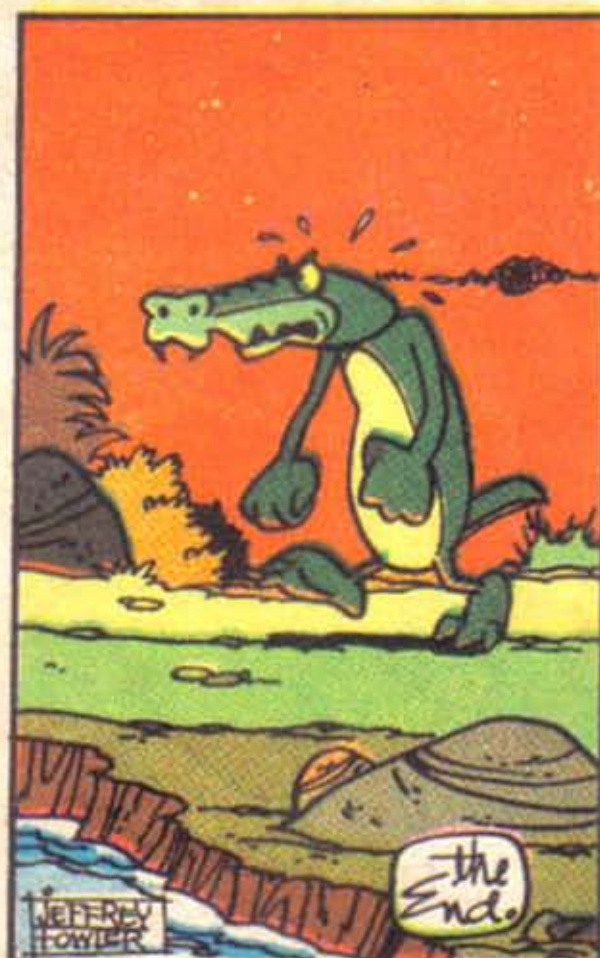
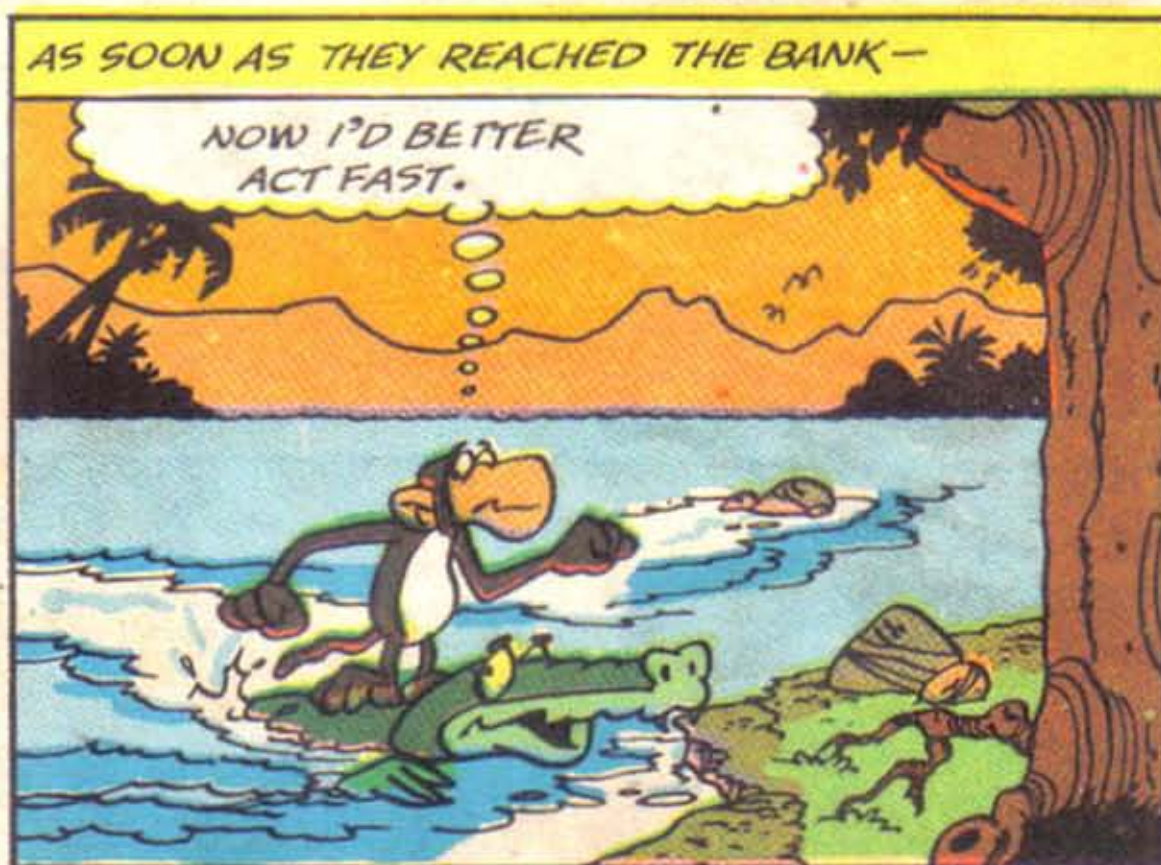
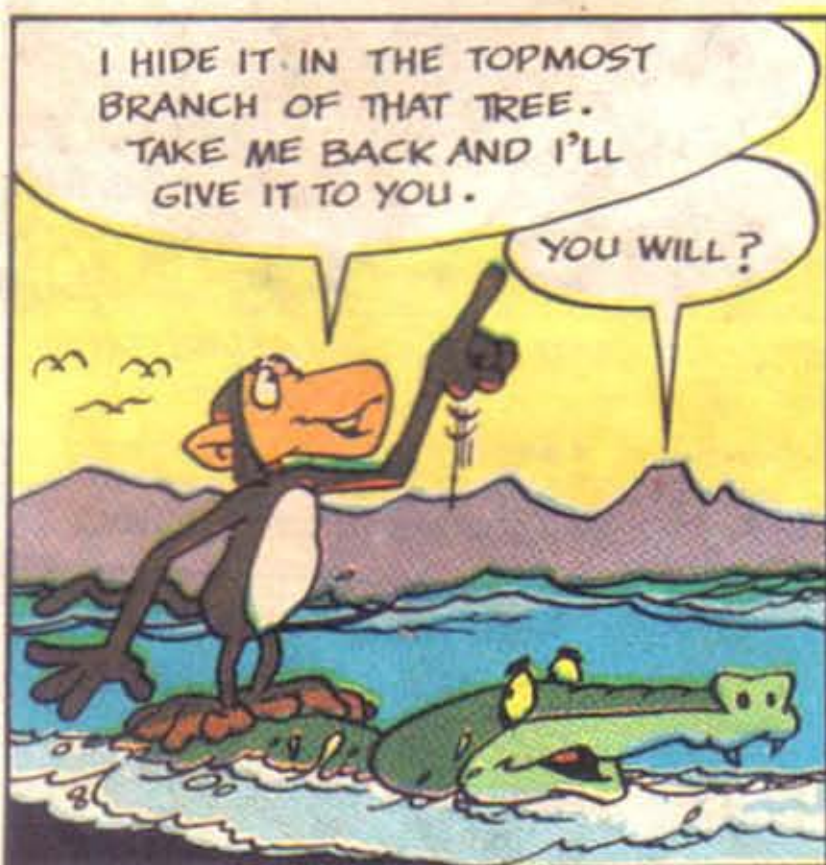
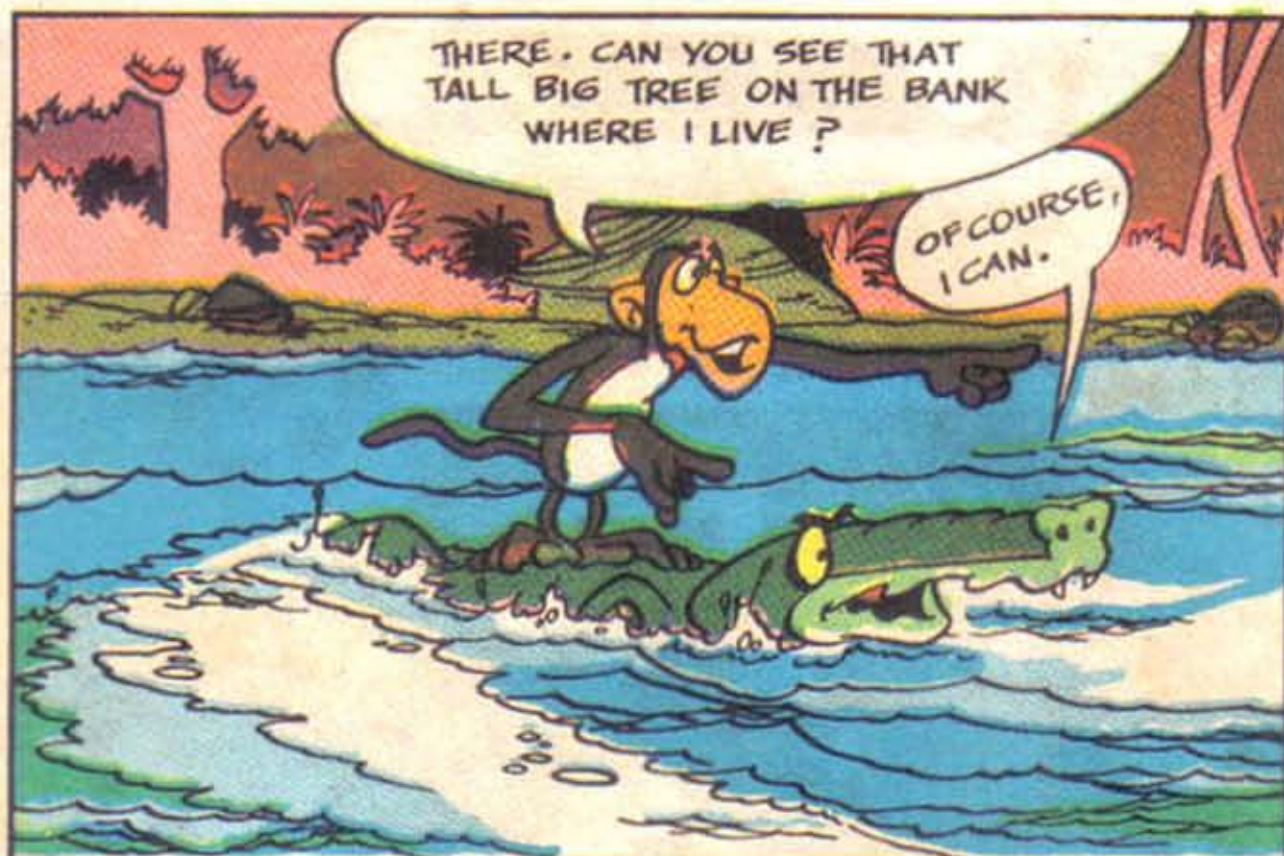
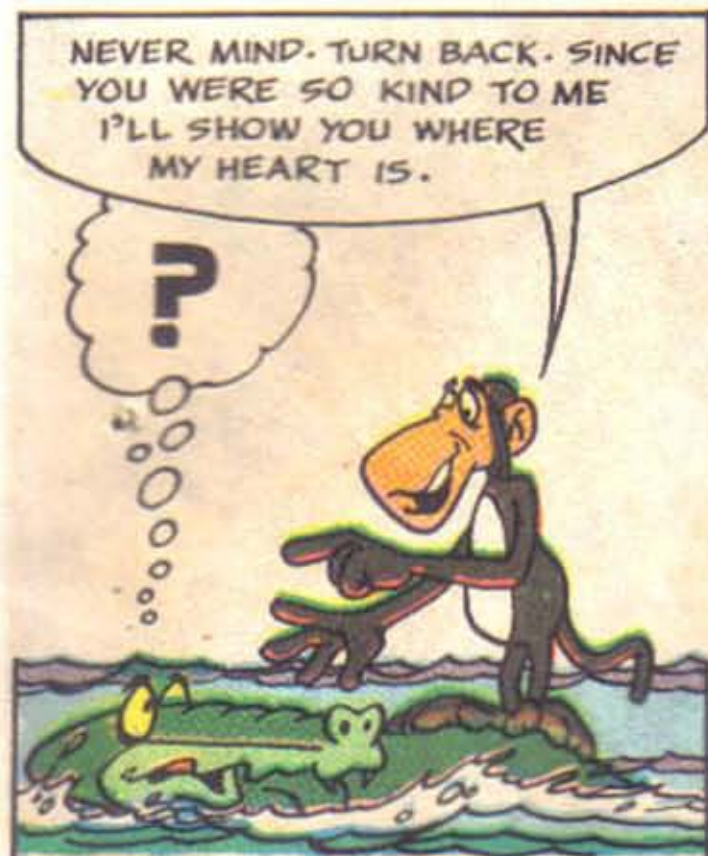
I WOULD LOVE TO GET IT FOR YOU. BUT HE LIVES UP IN THE TREES. HOW CAN I CATCH HIM?

YOU ARE A CROCODILE, AREN'T YOU? USE YOUR CUNNING.

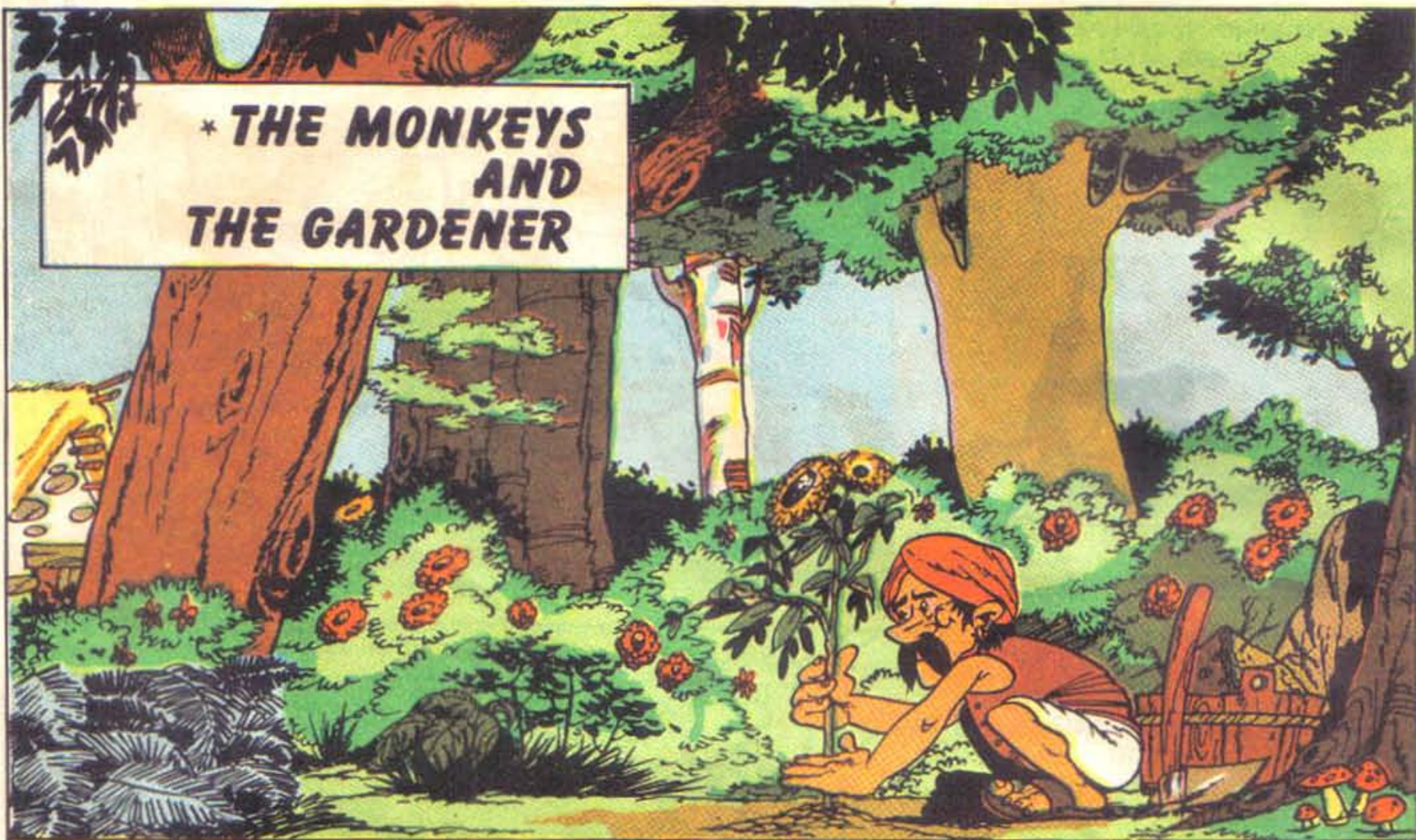
HUMM! LET'S SEE. MY IDEA MIGHT JUST WORK.







* THE MONKEYS AND THE GARDENER



THE KING OF VARANASI HAD A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN, WHICH WAS LOOKED AFTER BY A LOYAL GARDENER.

ONE NIGHT —



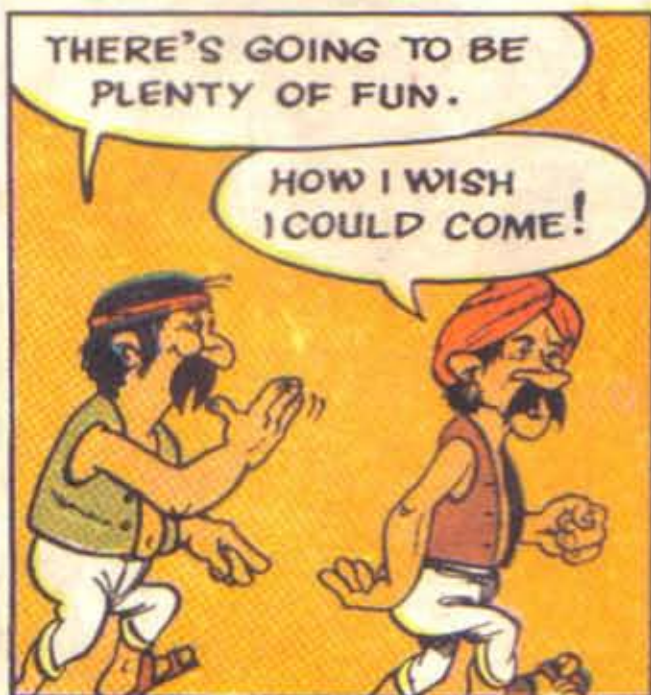
HELLO FRIEND. THE FESTIVAL IN TOWN BEGINS TOMORROW.

I KNOW!



THERE'S GOING TO BE PLENTY OF FUN.

HOW I WISH I COULD COME!



WHAT! AREN'T YOU COMING?

IF I DO, WHO WILL WATER THE GARDEN?



THE NEXT DAY-

WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SAD, GARDENER?

THERE'S A FESTIVAL ON IN TOWN.



WELL?

I WANT TO GO TO IT. BUT WHO WILL WATER MY GARDEN?



POOH!
THAT'S NO PROBLEM.



MY FRIENDS AND I WILL WATER THE GARDEN FOR YOU.

YOU WILL?

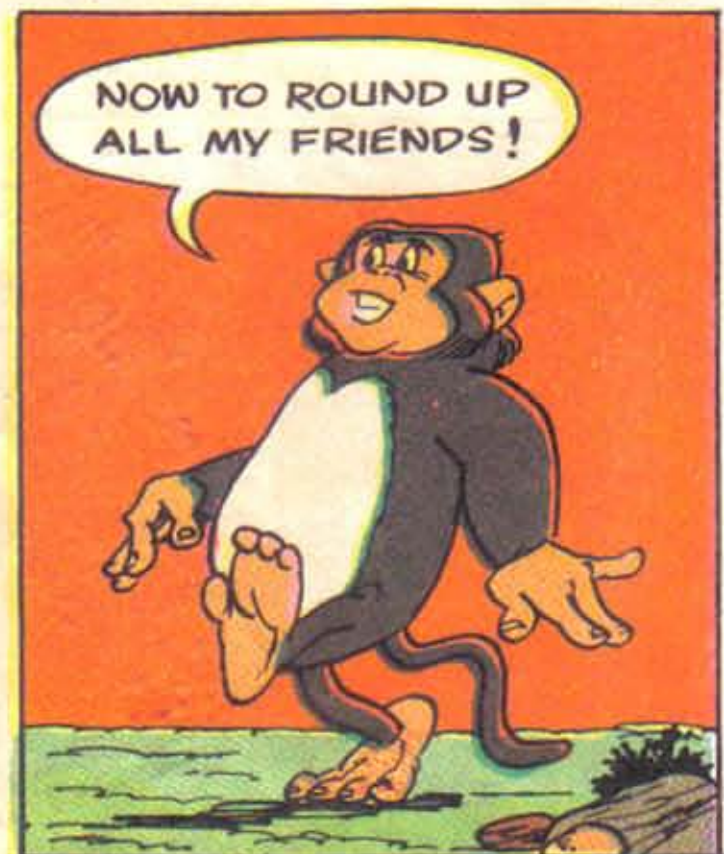


THANK YOU, DEAR MONKEY. I'LL RETURN IN A FEW DAYS, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

HAVE A FINE TIME, FRIEND.



NOW TO ROUND UP ALL MY FRIENDS!





COME ON, MY MONKEYS.
WE HAVE
WORK TO DO.
VERY IMPORTANT
WORK!



WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO WE
HAVE TO DO?

THE GARDENER
WANTS US TO WATER
HIS GARDEN WHILE
HE IS AWAY.



WHAT FUN!

WHEN CAN WE
START?

RIGHT AWAY!
GO GET THE
WATERING CANS
AND BUCKETS.

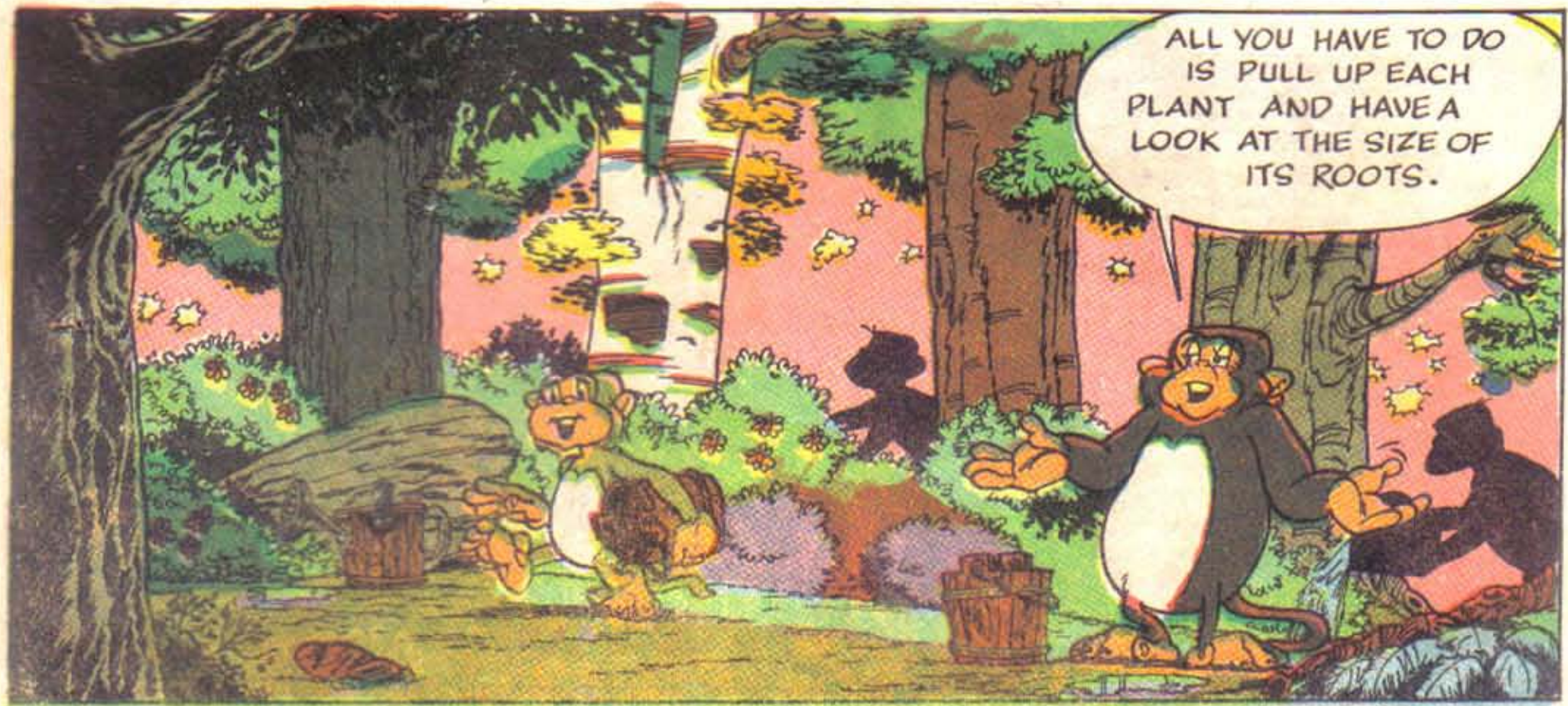


AS SOON AS THEY WERE READY—

SOME TREES ARE
SMALL AND SOME ARE
BIG!

THAT'S RIGHT!
HOW MUCH WATER
SHOULD WE GIVE TO
EACH TREE?

THAT'S NO PROBLEM
AT ALL.



MEANWHILE IN TOWN —

I WONDER HOW MY MONKEY FRIENDS ARE GETTING ALONG WITH THEIR TASK?

TWO DAYS LATER THE GARDENER RETURNED HOME.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

WE WATERED EACH PLANT ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF ITS ROOTS

THAT'S RIGHT. WE DID.

WHATEVER, SHALL I DO NOW? WHAT SHALL I TELL THE KING?

THAT'S WHAT COMES OF DEPENDING ON A FOOL. HE MAY MEAN WELL BUT WILL END UP DOING MORE HARM THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

the end.



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